THE CHURCH BOOK OF
BUNYAN MEETING 1650-1821

This edition is limited to
675 numbered copies, of which
350 are for sale in Great Britain
and 300 in the United States of America

This is number 140.

THE CHURCH BOOK OF BUNYAN MEETING 1650-1821

Being
A reproduction in facsimile of the original folio in the possession of the Trustees of Bunyan Meeting at Bedford entitled

A BOOKE
Containing a Record of the Acts of a
Congregation of Christ in and about
BEDFORD
And
A Brief Account of their first
GATHERING

With an introduction by
G. B. HARRISON

London and Toronto
J. M. DENT & SONS LTD.
New York: E. P. DUTTON & CO.
MCMXXVIII

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The editor and publishers wish to express their sincere thanks to Mr. J. Whiting and the Trustees of Bunyan Meeting, to whose care the *Church Book* is entrusted, for having given every facility for the study and preparation of this volume.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

INTRODUCTION

THE CHURCH BOOK OF BUNYAN MEETING, or, to give its original title, 'A BOOKE Containing a Record of the Acts of A Congregation of Christ, in and about BEDFORD,' is one of the most interesting original records of a Christian community in England. It is a reproduction in miniature of the history of Christianity, and the parallels are close. The book opens with the account of the first foundation of the Church and the 'testament' of John Gifford; it includes the epistles of the first saints condemning, exhorting, congratulating their fellow believers. It records the sufferings of the early believers, the troubles brought on the Church by its members who were unequal to their profession, or who had entered it with unworthy motives; the gradual hardening of general principles into fixed rules; the growth, not without controversy, of a simple ritual; the development of a constitution from the original spontaneous community of feeling; and at length the congregation at Bedford taking its place as a recognised part of the religious system of the country, unmolested and quiescent. All these things are vividly illustrated in this volume for those who care to read through its pages.

The original *Church Book* was a large folio bound in limp vellum. Some years ago it was rebound, the old cover being embodied in the new binding, and some of the pages were repaired a little drastically. On the whole the manuscript is in excellent condition and little has been lost, except a few names from the foot of ff. 5-6, 7-8, and a third of a page cut from f. 71. In the original volume the writing on the right-hand pages often runs up to the outer margin, so that some words have been worn away. The record begins with the foundation of the Church in 1650 and ends in 1821, but the present volume is not earlier than 1671, the entries made before that year having been copied from some earlier book in a fine professional hand, and at one time, as can be seen from the uniformity of the writing and even density of the ink.[1] The first original entry is that of a meeting held on 17th October, 1671 (f. 48). The same hand wrote the list of names beginning on f. 5 down to Mary Holdin (f. 6, column 1), the first name to be written directly in the book being that of Joan Berry, noted as being accepted on 21st October, 1671. The *Church Book*[2] opens with a brief account of the first gathering of the Church. "In this Towne of Bedford, and the places adjacent, there hath of a long time bene persons Godly, who in former times even while they remained without all forme and order as to visible church communion according to y^e^ Testament of Christ were very zealous according to their light, not onely to edify themselves, but also to propagate the Gospell, and help it forward, both by purse, and presente; keeping alwayes a door open, and a table furnished, and free, for all such ministers, and Christians, who shewed their zeal for, and love to the Gospell of Christ. Among these, that reverend man Mr John Grew was chief, also Mr John Eston Sen^r^: and bro: Anthony Harrington; with others: Men that in those times were enabled of God, to adventure farre in showing their detestation of y^e^ Bishops, and their superstitions: But as y^e^ saide these persons with many more, neither were, nor yet desired to be imbodied into fellowship according to y^e^ order of the Gospell; onely they had in some measure separated themselves from the prelaticall superstition; and had agreed to search after the non-conformity men, such as in those dayes did beare the name of Puritanes." (f. 1c.)

The first move to unite these 'people of God' into a Church was made by John Gifford. Gifford had been a major in the Royalist army; he was taken prisoner in the fighting at Maidstone in 1648 and condemned to death, but by the aid of his sister he escaped from his guards and ultimately made his way to Bedford, where he began to practise medicine, being noted for his debauched life until his conversion; after which, having "thrust himself, againe, and againe into their company both together, and apart" he began to take a lead and to preach. "Now having continued preaching a while and receiving some light in the Congregationall way, after some acquaintance also with other ministers; he attempted to gather into Gospell-fellowshipp, the saintes, and brethren, in and about this towne: but the more antient professors, being used to live, as some other good men of those times, w^th^out regard to such separate, and close comunion, were not at first so ready to fall into that godly order. Wherefore many dayes were by him, and them set apart for prayer to seeke of God light and counsaile therein: they also conferred with members of other societyes; and at last by the mercy and goodnes of God, they began to come to some blessed resolution therein. And first they consulted, after they had determined to walke together in the fellowship of the Gospell, and so to build an house for the name of our God, who were most expedient, to begin to be laide in this building as foundation stones. And at length twelve of the holy brethren and sisters began this holy worke: viz: Mr John Grew, and his wife: Mr John Eston the elder. Anthony Harrington, and his wife. Mr John Gifford; sister Coventon; sister Bosworth; sister Munnes sister ffenne, and sister Norton, and sister Spencer; all antient, and grave Christians well knowne one to another; sister Norton being the

[1] This is more obvious in the manuscript than in the facsimile. The ink in the original varies in shade from jet black to a dirty yellow.

[2] The late Dr. John Brown in his scholarly book, *John Bunyan, his life, times and work*, made copious extracts from the early pages of the *Church Book*, and added most useful information about the first members of the Bedford Congregation; but he tacitly omitted some passages which apparently he considered unseemly and very briefly passed over the long controversy with brother Whitbread, which occupies much space between ff. 30 and 49. References to Dr. Brown's book are to the latest edition (1928), edited by Mr. F. Mott Harrison, with valuable addenda.

youngest." (ff. 1c-2). John Gifford was then elected the first "pastor or elder to minister to them in the things of the Kingdom of Christ." "Wherefore bro: Gifford accepted of the charge, and gave himself up to the Lord, and to his people, to walke with them, watch over them, and dispense the misteryes of the Gospell among them, under that consideration by which he was chosen of them." This was in 1650.

Gifford established his congregation on a broad principle, "*ffaith in Christ; & Holiness of life*, without respect to this or that circumstance, or opinion in outward, and circumstantiall things. By w^{ch} meanes grace, and faith was incouraged; Love and Amity maintained: disputings, and occasion to janglings, and unprofitable questions avoyded, and many that were weake in the faith confirmed in the blessing of eternall life."

The first members of the congregation were men of some substance.[1] Both Grew and Eston held office as Mayors of Bedford (the latter in this same year, 1650), and were Justices of the Peace. In 1653, under Cromwell's Establishment, Gifford was appointed to the mastership and rectory of the hospital and Church of St. John, Bedford, where his flock now met. He died in 1655, leaving as his testament to the Church, the beautiful and moving letter copied into the *Church Book* on ff. 2-4, in which he emphasises the broad principles by which they were united. "Concerning separation from the Church about Baptisme, Laying on of hands, Anoynting with Oyls, Psalmes, or any externalls; I charge every one of you respectively, as you will give an account for it to our Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge both quick, and dead at his coming, that none of you be found guilty of this great evill: which whiles some have comitted, and y^{t} through a zeale for God, yet not according to knowledge; they have erred from the Lawe of the Love of Christ; and have made a rent from y^{e} true Church which is but one . . In your assemblies avoide all disputes which gender to strifes; as questions about externalls, and all doubtful disputations." (f. 3.) To the principles expressed in this letter the Church again and again returned in later years, especially at times of dissension.

After Gifford's death the living was vacant for some months owing to a dispute between the Bedford Council and the Church. The Council proposed to nominate a Mr. Hayes of Papworth but the Church objected, and the case was referred to Cromwell who decided in favour of the Church's candidate, John Burton. He was appointed to the vacant rectory on 16th January, 1656.[2] On 24th May, 1656, the detailed entries of meetings held for the transaction of the Church's business begin in the *Church Book* (f. 15). It is unfortunate that they were not kept earlier, for some months before the Church had received a most notable convert—John Bunyan. For the first few entries the women in the congregation are prominent in the affairs of the Church, but they soon ceased to take any active part, and after a few years a woman is seldom mentioned, except as a convert or by way of reproval. The first notice of John Bunyan occurs on 28th June, 1657, when he was instructed with brother Childe and brother John Fenn to go to friend Stratton, junior, of Houghton (f. 18).

Bunyan has left a vivid account of his first connection with the Church at Bedford in *Grace Abounding*. "But upon a day, the good Providence of God did cast me to *Bedford*, to work on my Calling; and in one of the streets of that Town, I came where there were three or four poor women sitting at a door, in the Sun, talking about the things of God; and being now willing to hear them discourse, I drew near to hear what they said, for I was now a brisk Talker also my self, in the matters of Religion: But I may say, *I heard, but I understood not*; for they were far above, out of my reach: Their talk was about a new birth, the work of God on their hearts, also how they were convinced of their miserable state by nature; they talked how God had visited their Souls with his love in the Lord Jesus, and with what words and promises they had been refreshed, comforted and supported against the temptations of the Devil: Moreover they reasoned of the suggestions and temptations of Satan in particular; and told to each other, by which they had been afflicted, and how they were borne up under his assaults: They also discoursed of their own wretchedness of heart, of their unbelief; and did contemn, slight and abhor their own Righteousness, as filthy and insufficient to do them any good. And me-thought they spake, as if joy did make them speak; they spake with such pleasantness of Scripture-language, and with such appearance of Grace in all they said, that they were to me, as if they had found a new world, as if they were *people that dwelt alone, and were not to be reckoned amongst their Neighbours*."[1] After a time Bunyan made himself known to these 'poor women' who were probably some of the original twelve founders of the Church; their names can be seen on ff. 2 and 5. "They told Mr. *Gifford* of me; who himself also took occasion to talk with me, and was willing to be well perswaded of me, though I think but from little grounds: But he invited me to his house, where I should hear him confer with others, about the dealings of God with their Souls."[2] Soon after he began to sit "under the Ministery of holy Mr. *Gifford*, whose Doctrine, by God's Grace, was much for my stability. This man made it much his business to deliver the people of God from all those false and unsound tests, that by nature we are prone to. He would bid us take special heed, that we took not up any truth upon trust; as from this, or that, or any other man or men; but to cry mightily to God, that he would convince us of the reality thereof, and set us down therein by his own Spirit, in the holy Word: *For*, said he, *if you do otherwise, when temptations come; if strongly, you not having received them with evidence from Heaven, will find, you want that help and strength, now to resist, that once you thought you had.*"[3]

Bunyan joined the Church in 1655 and his name is twenty-sixth in the list on f. 5. His special gifts were soon discovered and he was invited to speak a word of

[1] Brown, p. 81, *et seq.*

[2] Brown, pp. 96-7.

[1] *Grace Abounding*, §§ 37, 38, Edited by J. Brown, Cambridge, 1907.

[2] *Ibid.*, § 78.

[3] *Ibid.*, § 118.

exhortation at one of the meetings. "After this, sometimes when some of them did go into the Country to teach, they would also that I should go with them; where, though as yet I did not, nor durst not, make use of my Gift in an open way, yet more privately still, as I came amongst the good People in those places, I did sometimes speak a word of Admonition unto them also . . At last, being still desired by the Church, after some solemn Prayer to the Lord, with fasting, I was more particularly called forth, and appointed to a more ordinary and publick Preaching the Word, not only to and amongst them that believed, but also to offer the Gospel to those that had not yet received the Faith thereof."[1]

Bunyan had made rapid progress in the Church. From May to November, 1656, he was actively disputing with the Quakers and published his first book, *Some Gospel Truths Opened*, which provoked a reply from his opponent, Edward Burrough; Bunyan retorted with *A Vindication of the Book called Some Gospel Truths Opened* (1657). Two of his general discourses at this time were afterwards expanded into books—*A few Sighs from Hell, or the groans of a damned soul*, written when the zeal and terror of his conversion was still hot in him, and *The Doctrine of the Law and Grace Unfolded*, a most important work for the understanding of Bunyan's theology.

On 27th September, 1657, Bunyan and three others were 'nominated, and appointed for tryall' as deacons: but Bunyan was not chosen "being taken off by the preaching of the Gospell," which seems not to have been without some opposition, as on 25th March, 1658, special prayer was offered "for counsaile what to doo wth respect to the indictment against br: Bunyan at y^{e} Assizes for preaching at Eaton" (f. 20).

John Burton, Gifford's successor, did not hold his office for long. At the meeting on 30th July, 1659, it was agreed "to seeke the Lord for our bro: Burton, in respect of that weakenes, which the Lord hath for some time exercised him with" (f. 23). Other troubles threatened. The Lord Protector Cromwell had died on 3rd September, 1658, and his son was quite unable to govern. On 29th January, 1660, a day was set apart for prayer "upon the account of the distractions of the nation," and again on 29th April. At a meeting held in the latter part of the 6th month[2] (*i.e.*, September), Burton is dead, and the congregation excluded from St. John's Church and forced to seek a new meeting place (f. 24). King Charles II had been restored to the throne on 29th May, and in the early autumn persecution of Non-conformists began. Bunyan was arrested on 12th November and for the next six years was constantly in gaol. The weaker brethren were now falling off under trial, as is noticed at a meeting in the latter part of January, 1661. The next entry is on 28th September, "our meetings having bene for some time neglected, through the increase of trouble"; but efforts were made to bring the congregation together, and Bunyan with three other brethren was sent to admonish those who had withdrawn. On 26th October Bunyan is again mentioned; but thereafter his imprisonment seems to have been closer. He is not mentioned at the meetings held either in the latter part of November, or on 15th May, 1662, or at the beginning of January, 1663-4. At this last meeting, "the Church (not wthstanding their sore persecutions now come upon them) having spent many days in prayer wth fasting, to seek a right way of the Lord in this matter; did joyntly make choyce of bro: Samuell ffenne (now lately delivered out of prison) and bro Joh: Whiteman for their pastors, and Elders to minister the word and ordinances of Jesus Christ to them" (f. 26).

Meanwhile persecution was strengthening the Church and on 22nd February "God appearing in his glory to build up his Zion, there was with joy received into fellowship with this congregation. Jonah Whittimore, Henery Warde, Elizabeth Maxye, sister Lorke and Joane Layton" (ff. 26, 27). Two more converts were added on 28th February, and on 26th March, eight. Then follows a gap of four and a half years as the persecutions became more violent.

On 9th October 1668 (f. 27), the meetings were resumed, the first business of the Church being to gather its members, scattered during the troubles, and to restore discipline. In these proceedings Bunyan took the lead. He was at this time, and for the next four years, nominally a prisoner in Bedford gaol, but it is clear that his actual imprisonment was intermittent and for the most part interfered but little with his activities in the Church's business, though the meetings were somewhat irregular. Certain brethren had lapsed noticeably and proceedings were directed against them, especially brothers Robert Nelson, Richard Dean, Humphrey Merrill and Edward Coventon. Brother Coventon's case was most serious because he had held the office of deacon. He was accordingly divested of all authority and trust in this honourable employment on 20th September, 1669 (f. 28); but three months later he was thought "through mercy hopefully recovering from his backsliding" (f. 29). On 14th January, 1670, it was agreed to cut off Humphrey Merrill and the sentence was carried out the following week, the declaration of his offences being signed by seven brethren, Bunyan among them. At this same meeting proceedings were begun against a much more important member, brother William Whitbread, for having withdrawn from the congregation. This action led to a long correspondence, fully reported in the *Church Book*, in which the patience of the Church with brother Whitbread's scruples was almost exhausted. However, on 9th December, 1671, he made "a gracious acknowledgement of his sorrow and repentance" and was received again into the congregation. Brother Whitbread was socially one of the most prominent members of the Church.

During this time of persecution some of the brethren and sisters had shown great fortitude in their trials, and letters of encouragement were sent to them (ff. 39-42). In May, 1670, a prayer-meeting of the congregation at John Fenn's house was surprised by two apparitors and those present were taken before the magistrate,

[1] *Ibid.*, §§ 266-8.

[2] In the earlier part of the *Church Book* dates are recorded in the old style, whereby the new year began on 25th March. The first month is therefore April, and the twelfth March. The 29th January, 1660, is "the 29th of the 10th month of 1659."

Mr. Foster, and fined. The proceedings to distrain on the offenders were arbitrary and merciless, and provoked a protest in an anonymous pamphlet entitled *A true and impartial narrative of some Illegal and Arbitrary Proceedings by certain Justices of the Peace and others, against several innocent and peaceable Nonconformists in and near the Town of Bedford, upon pretence of putting into execution the late Act against Conventicles.*[1] As this pamphlet mentions by name a number of the congregation and gives their occupations, it is a valuable commentary on the *Church Book*. Amongst them are John Fenn, hatter; John Bardolf, maltster; Edward Coventon; Nicholas Hawkins, cutler; Michael Shepheard, shoemaker; Thomas Cooper, heelmaker; John Croker, linen draper; Daniel Rich, tanner; John Spencer, grocer; Edward Isaac, blacksmith; and Thomas Arthur, pipe-maker.

Meanwhile brothers Nelson and Dean had refused to submit to the Church, which, after repeated attempts to convince them of their errors, cut them off on 21st April, 1671 (ff. 43-5). Dean had "lived a loose and ungodly life accompanyed with defrauding in his calling," but Nelson's chief offence was that "in a great assembly of the Church of England, he was openly, and profanely bishopt, after that Antichristian order of that Generation, to y^e^ great profanation of God's order and heart breaking of his Christian brethren."

At the beginning of 1664, Samuel Fenn and John Whitman had been appointed pastors (f. 26) but this duality of control seems not to have been an entire success; it formed one of brother Whitbread's complaints (f. 33). But a few days after his reconciliation with the congregation (f. 49), a church meeting was appointed for 1st December 1671, "to seeke God about the choyce of bro: Bunyan to the office of an elder." The proposal was further discussed on 6th January, 1672, and on the 21st of the month was solemnly ratified:—

"After much seeking God by prayer, and sober conference formerly had, the Congregation did at this meeting with joynt consent (signifyed by solemne lifting up of their hands) call forth and appoint our bro: John Bunyan to the pastorall office, or eldership: And he accepting thereof, gave up himself to serve Christ, and his church in that charge; and received of the elders the right hand of fellowship.

"The same time also, the Congregation having had long experience of the faithfulnes of bro: Joh: ffenne in his care for the poor, did after the same manner solemnely choose him to the honourable office of a deacon, and committed their poor and purse to him; and he accepted thereof, and gave up himself to y^e^ Lord and them in that service" (ff. 50-1).

The first two years of Bunyan's pastorate were more eventful than would appear from the entries in the *Church Book*. In March, 1672, King Charles II issued the Declaration of Indulgence, by which Nonconformists and their places of worship were to be recognised and sanctioned. The barn chosen as the meeting place of the congregation was licensed on 9th May, with Bunyan as the 'Teacher of the Congregation.' The day before a petition for release had been presented by John Fenn, John Bunyan and others as prisoners for being at Conventicles and Nonconformity, and a general pardon was issued on 13th September.[1] The next two years were less happy, and the entries, which begin at the foot of f. 53, are in Bunyan's handwriting; they show that there was much trouble in the congregation. On 10th May, 1674, for instance, at a single Church meeting three members were rebuked or reported, and one received back on repentance; all were women. There were other troubles in June. Unfortunately the entries during Bunyan's ministry are scanty; either the Church meetings were irregularly held or else Bunyan was casual in entering up the records. Other specimens of his handwriting occur on ff. 54, 55, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72 and 260.

Bunyan published *The Pilgrim's Progress* (the first part) in 1678 and its sequel, *The Life and Death of Mr. Badman*, in 1680, and some of the characters in these books may be plausibly identified in the *Church Book*. In *The Pilgrim's Progress* Bunyan himself is Christian, Evangelist who set Christian on his journey is Gifford, brother Samuel or John Fenn, who so constantly went forth with brother Bunyan to admonish the erring brethren, may well have been the prototypes of Hopeful and Faithful. In *Mr. Badman*, Bunyan figures as Mr. Wiseman, and a number of the sins of Mr. Badman himself can be paralleled from the pages of the *Church Book*; John Rush, for instance, cast out for drunkenness (f. 53), or John Wildman who preferred scandalous charges against Bunyan on 2nd November, 1680 (f. 68); the coincidence of 'Wildman' and 'Badman' occurring the same year is noteworthy.

The name of John Wildman (or Wileman) occurs several times in the book after his rebuke in 1680. On 20th April, 1683, a 'frothy letter' in which he called the dealings of the congregation with him 'scuffling and fooling' was read and an answer, signed by sixteen members of the Church, was despatched (f. 72). After Bunyan's death he made further efforts to be reinstated, but nothing came of it (f. 73). Some time afterwards he left Bedford, but reappeared many years later—in 1699—and asked to be readmitted (f. 101). Some brethren gave him an interview and read out his record, but he made no satisfactory answer. Eleven brethren were then appointed to discourse with him again, but no further action was taken "y^r^ being very bad things reported of him as w^t^ were acted by him in Barkshire."

On 12th November, 1681, Samuel Fenn died, and on the 22nd a meeting of the congregation was appointed "to humble themselves before god for the sin that hath provoked god to lay this [h]eavie hand upon us." For the remaining period of Bunyan's pastorate the records were very badly kept: one meeting only was entered in 1684, none in 1685, one in 1686, two in 1687. Bunyan during these years was probably much occupied in preaching in London and the country. He died in London on 31st August, 1688, and his death caused the greatest sorrow in Bedford. On the

[1] Extracts from this pamphlet are printed in Brown, pp. 205-9, and my study *John Bunyan*, pp. 106-9.

[1] See Brown, pp. 176-8, 215.

4th, 11th and 18th September, days of prayer and humiliation were kept "for this Heavy Stroak upon us y^e^ Death of dare bro: Bunyan" (f. 73).

No successor was appointed for several months. On 10th February, 1691, it was agreed to give a call to brother Ebenezer Chandler, of London. At this time there seems to have been considerable debate about the propriety of singing psalms (f. 76), and brother Chandler's views on this question and the baptism of infants were sought. His reply is entered on f. 77c. As to the first, it shall be left to the consciences of individuals; on the second point he claims the liberty of baptising infants without making it his business to promote it amongst others; baptism is to be no bar to communion. Brother Chandler's formal dismission —a beautifully written document—was received in November (f. 78), and on the 3rd he was received into the congregation at Bedford. He was formally elected pastor on the 18th December.

Brother Chandler's ministry was, on the whole, stormy. When he assumed control of the congregation he found the Church badly disorganised and one of his first actions was to attempt to restore discipline. At the meeting on 11th January, 1692, "the names of the members inserted in the church Book was Read over: and ordered that Bro Crocker and Bro Hawkes do make an inspection how those members stand that are under y^e^ senshures of y^e^ Church or haue at any time been Admonished and to Know what there offences are and who do absent ffrom the church meetings" (f. 79).

These measures were not unanimously accepted. Brother John Fenn, for instance, accused the new pastor of preaching false doctrine and absented himself from the meetings of the Church; brothers Thomas Bunyan and Sutton were at variance. Other brethren continued to give trouble, such as brother Hensman who, on 31st October, 1694, was "call'd upon for A farther & more satisfactory acknowledgem^t^ of the evilles charged on him instead of w^ch^ he vindicated himself Blamed the churches proceedings w^th^ him as Irregular alledging y^t^ noe faults deserve publick dealing but gross enormityes & Haresyes & he did also reflect on Our B^r^ Chandler wrongfully to the griefe of the church & the disturbance of the meeting y^t^ the whole proceedings of the day were prevented" (f. 85). However, in the following March he acknowledged his errors and was again received into communion. Meanwhile new members were joining the Church, but they were not always received unanimously. Controversies in the congregation were growing so acute that on 6th April, 1695, "The *church principle* as tis in the account of the Churches first gathering & Dr. *Giffor*[*d's*] *Epistle* to the Church was read & by the church still *approved* & agreed to be *maintai*[ned] as what is agreeable to Gods word" (f. 89). In spite of this, dissensions continued. Eleven months later "There was also severall hours spent in prayer by the Churches appointm^t^ the 18th of March twas about church affaires y^t^ we might have Gods presence & blessing & our decayed Love to one another revived y^t^ we might walk as B^rn^" (f. 92). Once more Gifford's principles were reaffirmed on 7th April, when "Twas y^n^ agreed on also y^t^ all Persons for the future y^t^ are admitted to ffellowship do explicitly declare their approbation of & do give up y^m^ selves upon the stated principle of the Church viz *ffaith* in *Christ* & *holiness* of Life tho' y^r^ be different Apprehensions in Circumstantialls or Externalls" (f. 92). And so the record continues throughout brother Chandler's long ministry, of over fifty years. In 1740, Samuel Sanderson was ordained co-pastor, and in March 1744, brother Chandler was totally aside; he died on 24th June, 1747 (f. 140). With his death probably the last link with Bunyan was broken.

At this point may be considered some of the practices and principles of the congregation during the time of Bunyan and his immediate successor.

CONSTITUTION

(*a*) *Membership.* Although the Church was founded on the broadest of principles new converts were not received without careful examination. So long as Gifford was alive there was no need for formal procedure, but very soon after his death the method of admission was drawn up and agreed—"We do also agree that such persons as desire to join in fellowship, if upon the conference of our friends with them, who shall be sent for that purpose; our saide friends be satisfyed of the truth of the work of grace in their heartes; then they shall desire them to come to the next church meeting, and to waite neare the place assigned for the meeting, that they may be called in: And if not w^th^standing that first satisfaction, it be afterwards thought fitt, that any person so appearing, be yet delayed; that then some of the brethren go forth, and have conference with them, and labour in the wisedome, and Spirit of the Gospell, to incourage them to farther waitinge; and indeavour the prevention of any Temptation, that by the denyall of admittance they may be exposed to. But if the brethren sent forth, be not satisfyed in, the worke of Grace in the persons they are sent to; then they shall not desire their coming to y^e^ Church meetinge" (f. 17).

The process of admission was for the candidate to be 'propounded' at one Church meeting and summoned to the next where he declared the work of grace in his heart, and was formally accepted, referred or rejected.

This procedure was seldom altered, and cases where some relaxation was allowed are expressly mentioned as 'presidents.' Thus Alice Clark "was propounded & received into our ffellowship both at the same meeting not as A president for others but because she feared she might be hindred her duty if her Husband heard it" (f. 85).

Another case is that of Mrs. Freeman who was "allowed Libertie to speake her experience to some B^rn^ in private, she not being able to speake before the Church by reason of her fitts but not as a A president for future practices" (f. 95). A number of these declarations of spiritual experience survive, the most famous of all being Bunyan's *Grace Abounding*.

(*b*) *Dismission.* When a member left the neighbourhood and wished to join another congregation, careful inquiries were made, and if these were satisfactory, the member was 'dismissed' with a formal epistle, of which there are several examples copied in the *Church Book* (see, for instance, ff. 63, 76); an original specimen is shown on f. 77A. In allowing dismissions the Church was careful to observe the principle of disregarding externals; no member might join a congregation which made baptism a condition of entry (*e.g.*, f. 101).

Discipline.

The *Church Book* is a most valuable commentary on social and religious history in its detailed record of the disciplinary actions of the Church. Diciplinary action was of three degrees—admonishment, withdrawal and excommunication. A member who had been 'withdrawn from' could only be restored after a full and satisfactory declaration of repentance made publicly before the congregation. The offences for which members were punished were numerous, and some typical cases may be noted. Drunkenness was the commonest failing. The case of John Rush, cast out in 1673, was "above the ordenery rates of drunkerds for he could not be carried home from the Swan to his own house without the help of no less then three persons, who when they had brought him home could not present him as one a live to his familie, he was so dead drunke" (f. 53). On 1st April, 1724, brother Tompson was cut off from communion "having been Drunk, & in his Drunkeness stole from some Scotch men to the value of six or eight pounds" (f. 131).

Commercial honesty was rigidly insisted on, and bankruptcy or failure to pay debts was regarded as a sin. In Bunyan's ministry it was "concluded that four dayes be sett appart for humiliation with fasting and prayer to god because of som disorders amongst som in the congregation specially for that som have run in to debt more then they can satisfie to the great dishoner of god and scandall of religion" (f. 54).

In 1677 communion was withdrawn from Edward Dent "for being negligent and unfaithfull as to the management of his sisters imployment which he was Intrusted with; and all soe for contracting many debts which he nether was able to pay: nether did he so honestlye and christianly take care to pay his creditors in due time as he oft though he had beene often exhorted to it, and admonished be fore by his brethren" (f. 66). An instance of covetousness and extortion occurs on f. 101. Games of skill or chance were severely discouraged. In 1674 sister Landy was admonished, amongst other offences, for cardplaying (f. 54). In 1698 complaints were "made of the disorderly walking of sister Walker & her son Hubbert, the latter having played shuffle Board" (f. 97). Brother Butcher's case in 1702 was worse. On 3rd June, 1702, "Br Butcher received his publick admonition on the Lords Day, but could not attend this day by reason of his circumstances [*he feared arrest for debt*], & the Church not knowing the effect of their admonition could not tell wt conclusion to come to yrfore appointed Br ffen & Br Bunyan to go to him & inquire how matters were who on the Lords day following reported yt on their discoursing wth him he seemed sencible & yt yr was ground to hope yt he had repentance yrfore twas concluded to waite yet Longer on him, his sins were Drunkeness Card playing & light unbecoming actions, abt Stool Ball & the May Pole" (f. 103). In September brother Nicholls and brother Chandler who had been sent to him reported that as he was sick they had been unable to see him, "& yn the Church was informed yt he was severall hours at an ale house even till he was drunk the last Church meeting day wch he should have attended" (f. 103). Brother Hurst in 1723 was a similar offender. "Br Baskerville & Br Tompson reported from Br Hurst yt he persists in an absolute denial of the charges of Immodesty formerly mentioned & yr being no proof twas concluded to leave it to Divine providence for discovery if He be guilty or to the day of Judgment. as to the new Charges of his playing at Cards in a publick Ale House He confessed his fault wth shame to the Messengers, & promised better deportment." But his repentance was brief for "Our Brn could not get Br Hurst to meet them but He spent 2 or 3 hours at Quoits when the Messengers sent to Him & would have talked wth him" (ff. 131-2).

Religious enthusiasm was not encouraged. In 1697, sister Bar was reported for "yt she pretended to A spirit of prophesy & had predicted several strange unscriptural things as yt the church would suddenly be broke or in her own words yt the head & Body meaning Pastor & People should be separated & lye dead & other things not fitt to be mentioned" (f. 92). Two brethren were sent to summon her to the next Church meeting. She attended but did not give satisfaction, "tho' she acknowledged her self deluded yet still retained her sentimts yt she was endowed wth A spirit of prophesy." Accordingly she was "Charged to pray to God to convince her of her evill in such pretensions & wholly to decline ym & to give the Church satisfaction next Meeting" (f. 94). In the following March a fresh complaint being made of sister Bar's "pretended spirit of prophecy" she was "wthdrawn from till she manifested repentance" (f. 96). In 1706 admonition was sent to brother Vintner "being generally offensive in his walk & Enthusiasticall in his notions" (f. 109).

Breaking the Sabbath was naturally regarded as a serious offence, though cases were rare. Sister Purser was admonished on 3rd October, 1705, with her husband "who is guilty of profaning the Lords day by travelling in the way of his business as A Carrier" (f. 107). In 1716 "sister Harry was restored to full communion upon acknowledgement of her Evill in selling fruit on the Lords day & promising more circumspect walking" (f. 117).

The Church exercised considerable sway over the private lives of individual members. On 29th June, 1698, "sister Thorowgood sitting down wth Tho: Killingworth was desired by our Br ffisher to forbare it being contrary to the consent of the church." Three months later she was desired "to desist maintaining cõunion wth Tho: Killingworth" (f. 97). John

Stanton "being divers times admonished of his sine and wickednes in beateing his wife often: and other abuses towards hir, he being impenitent not heareing the Church" was cast out (f. 68).

Members were also expected not to marry without the approval of the Church. In 1697 sister Gates, for instance, was admonished by letter (f. 96); she "had Marryed A Carnall Man, & y^{t} tho' she was (besides the strict prohibition of the word of God) charged to the contrary by her Parents & told of the greatness of the Evill by our B^{r} Chandler & by him earnestly pressed to decline it." Sister Gates' case is mentioned several times in the following pages. The next year brother Hubbert being "like to marry A carnall woman," brothers Chandler and Crocker were sent to convince him of the evil of it (f. 97). Rather more than a year later the Church was informed that he "was already married to the person y^{t} he formerly was warned of as being carnall" but as she "was hoped to be gracious" there was no further proceeding (f. 100).

Cases of immorality are not common in the earlier part of the book though they increased considerably in the latter years of brother Chandler's ministry. One bad instance occurred while Bunyan was pastor when William Man was found guilty of "commiting fornication and uncleanese with severall, by his own confession to the great reproach of the gospell and people of god; and ther fore for the vindication of gods name, and shewing our dislike of his sines, and allsoe for his soules health: we did then and ther cast him out of the church and deliver him up to satan, for the destruction of the flesh, and that his spirit may be saued in the day of the lord Jesus" (f. 66). This curious formula of excommunication was repeated in the case of John Stanton (f. 68).

But the offences of individuals must be regarded in their true perspective. The sins of the one stray sheep are always more notorious than the virtues of the other ninety and nine. On the whole, except for some bad periods, the moral standard of the congregation was high; most parish registers reveal a much worse state of affairs.

To return to the record. Brother Chandler was not very regular in entering up his Church meetings, and there are several gaps. He grew less effectual towards the end of his ministry, and the sorrowful note at the bottom of f. 137 is significant—"ffor more y^{n} two years no Member added but many dyed to be Lamented."

From Michaelmas, 1729, to 1st April, 1736, only two pages of scattered entries were made; after this nothing was recorded for five and a half years.

The record is resumed in another and much bolder hand; on 14th May, 1740, Samuel Sanderson had been ordained co-pastor. The entries during his ministry are kept regularly, but for the most part record little beside attendances. This absence of incident suggests that the congregation was in a much healthier state, which is confirmed by the notes made at the periodical general Church meetings. On 1st October, 1742, "As to peace, we had cause to bless God, for his great goodness to us, y^{t} we were so united in Love; & y^{t} there was neither adversary nor evil occurrent; except what was above mentioned concerning our sister Field, alias Dove" (f. 145). A similar state of peace is recorded on ff.150, 153, 155, 166, 174.

In 1744 a difficult problem was put before the Church by the brethren at Hitchin. "The Case in short is this: the Wife of one of our Brethren dying without Issue, he has since thought proper to marry her Sister; who is likewise a Member with us." The advice of the Bedford congregation is sought and their answer is recorded on f. 149:—"We were pretty unanimous in thinking, y^{t} the Law of God is not clear concerning the Lawfulness, or Unlawfulness of such a marriage; that therefore it were much to be wish'd, they who have ventur'd upon it, had not done it: especially considering y^{t} so many Wise, & good Men esteem it sinful; & y^{t} it has occasion'd much offence, & Trouble to some serious Christians: but since they themselves see no Iniquity in it, and it cannot be certainly prov'd there is any, whatever Reason there may be to fear it, we were of opinions that they should not be excommunicated for that they have done; if they humble themselves before y^{e} Church, and express an hearty concern at having caused Offence & Grief to it.

"However when we came to consider, whether these Terms should be absolutely insisted on, as y^{t} without complying with y^{m}, they should not be restor'd, but on y^{e} contrary, cut off, we were divided: about one half of y^{e} Brethren judging it reasonable to require those Conditions; the Rest not." The Church continued to live at peace during brother Sanderson's ministry though at two of the general Church meetings (ff. 164 & 168) complaints were made of lukewarmness and lack of zeal; but the fact that so much attention was given to the case of brother Mitchel (f. 156) who was cast out for gross uncleanness, and young brother Negus, who persisted in preaching without authority, shows that irregularities were rare (f. 162).

Brother Sanderson died on 24th January, 1766, his last moments being described at length on ff. 177-9. He was succeeded by the Rev. Joshua Symonds, who was ordained pastor on 4th August. The correspondence which passed between Mr. Symonds and the Church, and the very interesting account of his ordination are recorded in great detail in the *Church Book* on ff. 179-188.

During brother Symonds' pastorate (1766-1788), the Church was disturbed by several bitter controversies and unpleasant scandals. The first trouble was caused by Mrs. Hensman who in a letter read on 3rd December, 1767, declared "That a Minister has been imposed upon me, who has by his conduct [shewn] that he is a hot-headed, bigotted, weak man, & as such I can by no means think him a proper teacher of others, & therefore cannot attend his ministry with any satisfaction" (ff. 189-190). To some extent the entries in the *Church Book* support at least the charge of weakness for there are abundant signs that the brethren lacked a strong lead and were constantly divided. It is surprising, for instance, to find that in the case of brother Cressy, who admitted

"repeatedly attempting indecent liberties with persons of his own sex," action was deferred for nearly three months and even then he was only excommunicated by a majority (f. 192). Similarly brother Maynard, first charged with immorality on 6th May, 1770, in spite of the fact that he defied the Church, was not cut off until 29th November. The situation in the Church was further complicated on 9th February, 1772, when the pastor made a declaration before the congregation that he had changed his views about the fundamental question of baptism, and had been "led to approve of & practise Believer's Baptism by Immersion" (f. 198). Much anxiety was felt by the congregation, and "it was judged expedient for them to meet weekly for prayer & conversation upon this difficult & delicate matter" (f. 199). On the 3rd April it was resolved that the Church should take a year for deliberation before finally concluding "whether to dismiss or retain our present Pastor." The controversy between the pastor and some of the congregation became acute in the following September when he baptised two members of the Church; but on 6th March, 1773, the question whether brother Symonds should continue or remove was decided in his favour by 25 votes to 3. Thereafter the dissensions seem to have subsided, except for occasional disturbances, such as that of brother Malden (f. 203). There were further troubles in 1785, caused by brother Langley who, on 9th February, 1786, "having uttered many falsehoods in private concerning our Brother Symonds, & having caused some of them to be printed, was this Day suspended from Communion with this Church in its priviledges, and prohibited leading the Ordinance of singing, or sitting in the singing Pew till he publickly retracts what he has published and gives full satisfaction of his genuine repentance & reformation to this Church" (f. 217). As this resolution was carried by 16 votes to 6, it is clear that brother Langley had some following. On 1st March, 1786, he was separated from the Church for refusing to submit, "to which may be added his public ridicule of the preaching of Bro^{r} Sym^{s}, openly laughing very frequently as he sat under the word, & once at the Lord's Table" (f. 219).

On 3rd April, 1788, a general Church meeting—the first for ten years—was held. The "first Pastor's letter at the beginning of this Book was read" and a survey taken of the state of the Church during brother Symonds' pastorate. It was found that the numbers were the same—127. "It was also remarked that 380 have died in that time since 1767 besides Children: also 200 have in that time left our Meeting, & gone to the New Meeting or other places of worship, besides Children, which probably all together amount at least to as many as now attend" (f. 221).

Brother Symonds died on 23rd November, 1788. There was some difficulty in finding a successor. At length on 6th April, 1791, the Rev. Samuel Hillyard was invited for one year on trial. After nine months the question was put whether Mr. Hillyard should be called to the office of pastor and negatived by 16 votes to 12, but on 5th April it was carried by 18 votes to 14 (f. 226.) A letter was accordingly despatched, signed by three of the deacons, which Mr. Hillyard answered, accepting the call (ff. 227-9), at the same time pointing out that he had received other and more attractive offers. He was publicly ordained on 12th June, 1792.

In the first few months of brother Hillyard's ministry there were secessions to the separated Church, but those who desired it were regularly dismissed. On the other hand there were many new adherents, and at the general Church meeting held on 30th April, 1795, it was noted that the numbers of the Church had increased. Twenty members had been lost by separation, 19 by death, 5 by dismission; against these 66 had been received, leaving a total of 150 (f. 236). The Church continued to increase; in 1801 the total was 168 (f. 241); further increases were reported in 1807 (f. 246). For the rest of the period covered by the *Church Book*, apart from occasional lapses by individuals, there were no very noteworthy entries. The last entry was made in 1821—

"Sep B^{r} Bachlor Berrill & Hillyard prayed."

So ends the *Church Book*, a continuous and living record of a hundred and seventy years of religious life in England.

G. B. HARRISON,
14th May, 1928.

KING'S COLLEGE,
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A BOOKE

Containing a Record of the Acts of
A
Congregation, of Christ, in, and about

BEDFORD.

And

A Briefe Account of their first

GATHERING

Matt. 28. 20. Lo I am with you always even unto
the end of the world, amen.

Rev. 2. 10. Be thou faithfull unto death, & I will give
thee a crown of life.

By whom alone the precious spark of liberty has been kindled & preserved
and to whom the English owe the whole freedom of their constitution
Blame
They appeared against the prerogative and received the seeds of
all the enemies of the constitution and pure religion with
unshaken principles

In this Towne of Bedford, and the places adjacent, there haue of a long time been found Godly, who in former times (even while they remained without all forme and order as to visible church communion according to ye Testament of Christ) were very zealous according to their light, not only to edify themselues, but also to propagate the Gospell, and hold it forward, both by word, and resolute; keeping always a door open, and a table furnished, and free, for all sutch ministers, and Christians, who showed their zeale for, and loue to the Gospell of Christ. Among those, that reverend man Mr John Grew was chief, also Mr John Gibon sene: and Mr: Anthony Harrington: with others: Men that in those times were enabled of God, to aduenture farre in shewing their detestation of ye Bishops, and their superstitions: But as ye saide those persons with many more, neither were, nor yet desired to be imbodied into fellowship according to ye order of the Gospell; onely they had in some measure separated themselues from the prelatic rall superstition; and had agreed to joyne after the non-conforming men, such as in those days did beare the name of Puritanes.

But when it pleased God (who had before appointed that holy ordinance of the communion of saintes) to shew this mercy to this people; he placed Mr John Gifford among them for their minister in Christ Jesus, and to be their pastor and teacher, and the steward of God to communicate unto them the knowledge of his will, in ye holy mysteryes of the Gospell. Of whom (because their appeared a more then ordinary hand of God in fitt call to the ministery and his place and office among them) take this short relation of him, both, before, and after grace received.

Mr Gifford was a Scottish man, a great Royalist; and an officer 1642: a major in ye Kings army: he had also his hand in that fighting that was in Scotland for wch he was also persecuted, and adiudged with 11 more to be Hanged: But ye night before he was to dye: his sister coming to visit him, and finding the soldiers that kept the doore asleep, and drunke also his contrarious within (heavy through drinke): she led him out of the doore, and the watch, that stood before it; and intreated him to take the opportunity to escape, and save his life: wch also he did, and passed through them all, (for being as it was a deep sleep from the Lord upon them, and made his escape into ye fields, and creeping into the bottom of a ditch lay there about 3 dayes, till the great search for him was over, and then by the help of his friends he came disguised to London; where he abode not long but was enforced downe into this Country, where he also lay hid from his enemyes, in ye houses of certaine great persons, who were of like minde as himself: And after a while he came to Bedford, and there being utterly a stranger, he professed, and practised physicke; but abode still very vile, and debauched in life, being a great Drinker, Gamester, Swearer &c: But in his calling & trade of life, that he usually came off by the losse, it would sometimes put him into sadd distresse, and discontent of mind, and so full of trouble to leave ye practise: but those resolutions were but like ye seed sowne on ye ground mentioned in ye Gospell, wch tooke not hold, nether the fit to do so vile was worn him, wherefore he went on, and broke them still. But one night having lost, as I take it, about 15li: it put him into a rage, and he sought many desperate thoughts against God: but while he was looking into one of Mr Bottons bookes, (touching therein 1 Tim. 1. 15.) and brought him into a great sense of sin, wherein he continued for ye space of a month or above: but at last God did so abundantly discover to him by his word, the forgiveness of sin for the sake of Christ; that (as he said by perusall of the brethren some heard to say) all his life after wch was about ye space of five yeares, he lost not the light of Gods countenance, no not for an houre, save only about two dayes before he dyed.

But when it had pleased God thus to awaken this man, he sought forthwith to get acquaintance with those godly persons that are above mentioned, but they could not at first believe that he was a disciple; yet he would inquire after their meetings, and being naturally bold would thrust himself again, and again into their company both together, and apart: yet they had jealousies about him for he had indeed been a very vile man; and had also in the time attempted in a very rude manner to do several actions that betoken great extravagancy of mind, and wildness of heart; Besides, as himself did after say, he often had thoughts to kill Mr Harrington, meerly from that great antipathy that was in his heart, against the ways of God, and the holyness of the Gospell.

But so it was that in little time he was inwardly in his heart put upon it, to preach; but yet would not without he advised first with the Godly; but they being at a stand in the case, he first offered his gift before them in private, and afterwards in an open way before the world: whose word God so blessed, that even at the first he was made through grace, a father to some through the Gospell. For instance: Sister Cooper a woman whose memory is yet precious among us, was converted by the first sermon he preached in publicke.

Now having continued preaching a while and receiving some light into the Congregational way, after some acquaintance also with other ministers; he attempted to gather into Gospell-fellowship, the saints, and brethren, in and about this towne: but the

more

more antient professors, being vsed to live, as some other good men of those times, without regard to such seperation, and those communion, were not at first so ready to fall into that godly order

Wherefore many dayes were by him, and them set apart for prayer to seeke of God that wch failed herein: they also conferred with members of other societyes; and at last by the mercy and goodnes of God, they began to come to some blessed resolution therein.

And first they consulted, after they had determined to walke together in the fellowship of the Gospell, and so build an house for the name of our God, who were most expedient, to begin to be laide in this building as foundation stones? And at length twelve of the holy brethren and sisters began this holy worke: viz: Mr John Crow, and his wife: Mr John Olton the elder. Anthony Harrington, and his wife. Mr John Gifford; sister Coventon; sister Bosworth; sister Mumford sister Ferris, and sister Norton, and sister Spencer; all antient, and grave Christians well knowne one to another; sister Norton being the youngest.

The manner of their putting themselves into the state of a Church of Christ was; After much prayer, and waiting upon God, and consulting one with another by the word; they, upon the day appointed for this solemne worke, kept not; after prayer, and seeking God as before, the one tenth they joyntly first gave themselves to the Lord, and one another by the will of God.

Then did they in the next place make choyce of brother Gifford to be their pastor, or elder to minister to them in the things of the kingdome of Christ, to whom they had given themselves before: Wherefore Bro: Gifford accepted of the charge, and gave himself up to the Lord, and to his people, to walke with them, watch over them, and diligently to exercise the gifts of the Godhead among them, under that consideration by wch he was chosen of them.

Now the principle upon wch they thus entred into fellowship one with another, and upon wch they did afterward receive those that were added to their body, and fellowship was Faith in Christ; & Holines of life, without respect to this or that circumstance or opinion in outward, and circumstantiall things. By wch means grace, and faith was encouraged; love and unity maintained: disputings, and occasion to janglings, and unprofitable questions avoyded, and many yat were weake in the faith confirmed in the blessing of eternall life.

This principle was maintained in the Church to their mutuall comfort, and edification, even till the death of bro: Gifford; who also of his care to the Congregation, while he was fetching his last breath, wrote an Epistle to the Congregation, to perswade them to continue in the faithfull maintaining of the above named principles among one with many other exhortations tending to peace and holynes, and brotherly love; wch Epistle here under followeth

To the Church over wch God made me an overseer when I was in y world.

I beseech you brethren beloved let these following words I wrote in my love to you, and care over you, when our heavenly father was removing me to his kingdome of his dear Sonne be read in your severe gatherings together.

I shall not now dearely beloved write unto you about that wch is the first, and without wch all other things are as nothing in the sight of God viz: the keeping the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience: I shall not (by) my writs of two leaves (though I greatest) having spent my labours among you, to root you, and build you up in Christ through the grace yat have received, and to presse you to all manner of holynes in your conversations, that you may be found of the Lord, without spot, and blamelesse at his coming.

But the things that I shall speake to you of, are about your Church affaires, wch I feare have been little considered by most of you; wch things if not minded & rightly, and submitted unto according to the will of God, will by degrees bring you unto divisions, distractions, and at last to confusion of that Godly order, and fellowship wch now through grace you enjoy.

Therefore my brethren in the first place I would not have any of you ignorant of this, that every one of you are as much bound now, to walke in the Church in all love, and in the ordinances of Jesus Christ our Lord, as when I was present among you; neither have any of you liberty to joyne your selves, to any other society, because your Pastor his dismissed from you: for you were not joyned to the ministery, but to Christ, and the Church. And this is and was the will of God in Christ to all the Churches of the Saints. Read Act: 2: 41: and compare it wth Act: 1: 14 15 and I charge you before the Lord; as you will answer it at the coming of our Lord Jesus, that none of you be found guilty herein.

Secondly. Be constant in your severe dispensations. Let all the workes in reference the Church be done faithfully amongst you; as admission of members, ordering of Gifts, Election of officers, as need requires; and all other things, as if named,

wch

when the Scriptures being searcht will lead you into Itrouge the Spirit. Which things if you doo, the Lord will be with you; and you will continue steers that Christ is your head, and your dependency is not upon man. But if you do the worke of the Lord negligently; if you minde your owne things, and not the things of Christ; if you grow of indifferent spirits whether you minde the worke of the Lord in his Church or no: I feare the Lord by Iegrees will suffer the comfort of your communion to be dryed up, and the Candlestick to it yet standing to be broken in pieces: which God forbid.

Now concerning your admission of members, I shall leave you to the Lord for counsaile, who haly hitherto beene with you; onely this much I thinke expedient, to stirre up your remembrance in, That after you are satisfyed in the worke of Grace in y^e party you are to joyne with; the said party doe solemnely declare before some of the Church at least) That union with Christ is the foundation of all Saintes communion: and not any ordinances of Christ, or any judgement or opinion about externalls: And y^e said party ought to declare, whether a brother or sister, Zeal, Itrouge grace, they will walke in love w^th y^e Church, Itouge there should happen any difference in judgement about other things.

Concerning separation from the Church about Baptisme, Laying on of hands, Anoyning with Cyes, Psalmes, or any externalls: I charge every one of you respectively, as you will give an account for it to our Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge both quick and dead at his coming, that none of you be found guilty of this great evill; wherin whilst some have continued, and y^t Itrouge a zeale for God, yet not according to knowledge; they have erred from the Lawes of the Love of Christ; and have made a rent from y^e true Church wherin it but one.

I exhort you brethren, in your comings together, let all things be done decently, & in order according to the Scriptures. Let all things be done among you without strife, and ~~vaine glory~~ envy, vaine selfseeking, and vaine glory. Be clothed with humility, and submit to one another in Love. Let the gifts of the Church be exercised according to order; Let no gift be concealed which is for edification: yet let those gifts be chiefely exercised which are most for the edifying of the Saintes. Let your discourse be to build up one another in your most holy faith and to provoke one another to Love, and good works: If this be not well minded many times may be spent, and the Church reape little or no advantage. Let there be strong meate for the strong, and milke for Babes. In your assemblies avoide all disputes which tended to strife; as questions about externalls, and all doubtfull disputations. If any come among you who will be contentious in these things, let it be declared that you have no such order, nor any of the Churches of God. If any come among you with any doctrine, contrary to y^e doctrine of Christ; you must not heare them at all; nor enter into disputes of the things of faith, with reasonings (for this is contrary to the Scriptures) but let any of the brethren who are full of the Spirit, and the word of Christ; oppose such an one stedfastly face to face, and lay open his folly to y^e Church from the Scriptures. If a brother (through weakness) speake any thing contrary to any known truth of God (though not intended by him) some other brother of the Church, must in love reason it out the truth, least many of the Church be laide under temptation. Let no respect of persons be in your comings together: When you are met as a Church, there is neither rich nor poore, bond nor free, in Christ Jesus. Is not a good practise to be offering prayers, or psalmes, when those who are with you in spirit see a great will to take notice of such in time of prayer, or the word: then are bowings, and vaine observances at such times not of God. Private wrongs, are not presently to be brought unto y^e Church. If any of the brethren be troubled about externalls, let some of the Church (let it not be a Deacon alwayes) pray for, and w^th such parties.

None ought to withdraw from the Church if any brother should walke disorderly; but he y^t walkes disorderly must beare his owne burthen according to y^e Scriptures. If any brother should walke disorderly, he cannot be shut out from any ordinances before Church censure.

Study among your selves w^t is y^e nature of Followship as the Word, Prayer, and breaking of bread; wherin whilst few, if any, seriously consider, there is much failing short of unity in y^e Churches of Christ.

You that are most eminent in profession, set a pattern to all the rest of the Church. Let your faith live, and zeale be very eminent: if any of you cast aduimus light, you will do much hurt to the Church.

Let there be kept up among you solemne dayes of prayer, and thanksgiving: and let no time be set apart, to seek God for your selves; wherin things haly hitherto been omitted.

Let

Mr Giffords Epistle to the Congregation.

Let your Deacons have a constant stock by them, to supply the necessitys of those who are in want: truly brethren there is utterly a fault among you that are rich especially, in this thing. It is not that little which comes from you on the first day of the week that will serve you. I beseech you be not found guilty of this sin any longer. He that sowes sparingly will reap sparingly. Be not backward in your gatherings together: Let none of you willingly stay till part of the meeting be gone, especially lest we should be examples to ye flock.

Two or two things are omitted about your comings together, which I shall here adde. I beseech you forbear sitting in prayer, except parties be any way disabled: It is not a posture that suites with the majesty of sucn an ordinance. Would you serve your private Gs? In prayer let all self-affected expressions be aboyded, and all vain repetitions. God hath not gifted, I judge, every brother to be a mouth to the Church. Let such as have most of the demonstration of the Spirit, and of power, shut up all your comings together, that ye may go away with your hearts comforted, and quickened. Come together in time, and leave all orderly; for God is a God of order amongst his saints. Let none of you give offence to his brother in indifferent things, but be subject to one another in love.

Be very careful in gifts you approove of by consent for publick serving.

Spend much time before the Lord about choosing a pastor; for though I suppose he is before you whom the Lord hath appointed; yet it will be no disadvantage to you, if you tarry a yeare or two, as you are before Election. And then (if you be all agreed) let him be set apart, according to the Scriptures.

Salute the brethren who walke not in followship, wth you, wth the same Love, and name of brother, or sister, as they were.

Let the promises made to be accomplished in the latter dayes, be often urged before the Lord, in your comings together, and forget not your brethren in bonds.

Love him much for the workes sake who labours over you in the word, and doctrine let no man despise his youth. Muzzle not the mouth of the ox that treads out the corne to you. Search the Scriptures, let some of them be read to you about this thing. If your teacher at any time be laide aside, you ought to meet together as a Church, and build up one another. If the members at any time will go to a publick ministery; it must first be approoved of by the Church.

Farewell; Exhort, Counsaile, Support, Reproove one another in Love. Finally brethren be all of one minde; walke in love one to another; even as Christ Jesus hath loved you, and given himself for you. Search the Scriptures for a supply of those things wherein I am wanting.

Now the God of Peace who raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead multiply his peace upon you, and preserve you to his everlasting Kingdome by Jesus Christ. Stand fast. The Lord is at hand.

That this was written by me I have set my name to it, in the presence of two of the Brethren of the Church.

John Gifford.

The Names of the members of the Congregation.

c John Grue.
c Martha Grew
c John Elston. Jun.
c John Gifford.
Anthony Sawington
c Anne Sawington
c Joane Coventon
c Elizabeth Munnos.
c Hannah Holmes.
c Margaret Bosworth
c Mary Sponner.
c Sister Norton.
c Sister Grundon
c Jane Bluitte.
c Elizabeth Yorke
Sarah Prior.
c Edward Coventon
c John Rush and his wife.
c Sister Shephard.
Susanna Deane
c Sarah Bishop.
c William Wallis.
c Sister Harpine
c John Reynolds.
Anne Reynolds.
John Bunyan.
William Whitbread.
Lettice Whitbread.
c Sarah Edwards
William Brooden.
Sarah Yorke
c Elizabeth Cooper.
c Sister Manly.
c Sister Childs.
c Sister Booth
c Elizabeth Gostin
Alice Foster.
c Katharine Fosterd
c Mary Shephard
Alice Roper
c Mary Clarke.
c Mary Rise
Boy Gou

Sarah Holmes.
John Holmes.
c Richard Spenely.
+ Robert Nelson.
Mary Sponner. Jun.
Mary Tilny.
+ Mary Lisford.
Alice Abbis.
c George Skelton.
c Barbary Skelton
Agnes Cooper.
c Faith Gibbs.
c Anne Page.
c Henery Rush.
c Elizabeth Rush.
c Martha Spenely
c Millicent Munnos.
+ John Childs.
c Richard Cooper
c and his first wife.
c Mary Tilor
c Susanna Gibbs.
c Robert Hosstork.
+ Humphrey Morrill
and his wife.
John Wilson.
Michaell Tilby.
c Dorithy Crow.
c Alse Shergman.
c Anne Hodsell.
c Robert Crow.
c Robert English.
c Sister Barker.
c John Burton
+ Robert Wallis.
c and his wife.
c John Whiteman.
Susanna Harrill.
c bro: Wheeler
c and his wife.
Anne Browne.
c Sister Sugsdon.
c George Kime
c and his wife.
c Sister Elizabeth Cooper.
Anne Horsk
Mar: Moe.
Chamberlaine

Martha Radwell.
Joane Warren
c Henery Clarke.
Mary Clarke. +
c Sister Creake. 5
Oliver Fitts.
c Anne Nelson.
+ William Mau.
Sister Sayre.
c Sister Wilson.
Michaell Bolugton.
c Paule Alsdine
c Richard Shaton.
c bro: Mary and his wife.
c Sister Coole.
c Sister Gale.
Sister Robinson.
Sister Hawkins.
Susanna Edor.
c Sister Cooles
c bro: Smith.
c Elizabeth Burnwood.
Sister Foxe.
c Mary Joy
c Martha Grew. Jun.
c Susan Tilor
Sister Landy.
John Croker.
c Thomas Cooper.
+ Richard Deane.
c Mary Birch.
Sister Warner c
c bro: Cooper's second wife.
c Roger Crowse
Susan Ridger.
c John Crane.
c Sister Wellor.
Sister Gibbs.
c Magdalen Crooke.
c Sister Barker jun.
c Jonah Whittimore.
Henery Ward.
Elizabet Marye.
c Sister Yorke.
Joane Layton. c
c Eleazar Hawkins
c Mary Foskett.
c Sister Whittamore
Mary Yorke.
c bro:

The 12 persons that first Embar as a Church in those that Stand first in ye List

There have Bine the following Pastors of this Church
Mr Gifford — 10
Mr Burton
Mr Kern 4
Mr Whiteman 3
Mr Bingam 16
Mr Chandler 11
Mr Sanderson 17
Mr Symonds

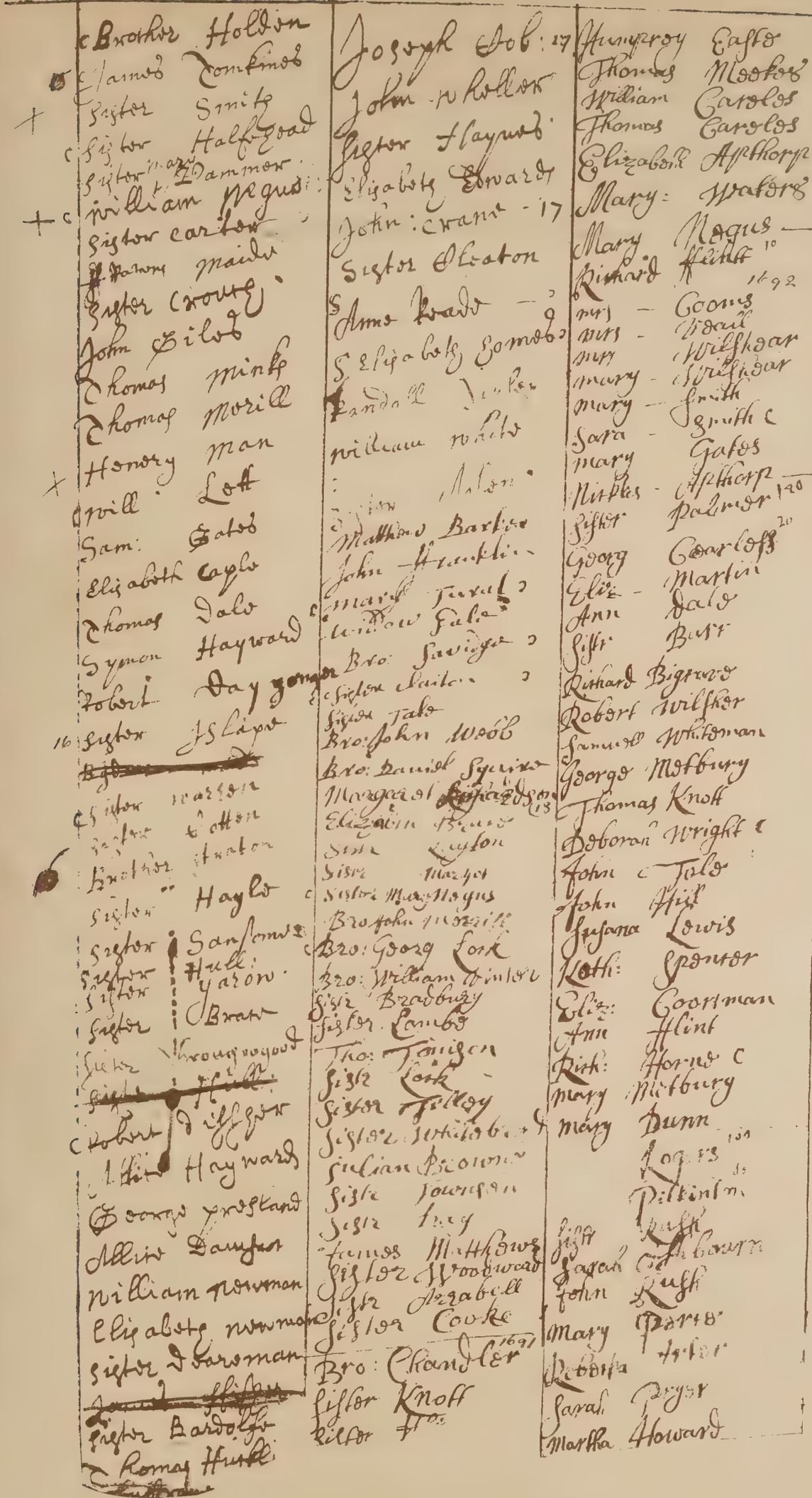
The Names of the members of the Congregation.

Sister Heath
Sister Hall.
Thomas Hunilove
Edward Isaack
his wife.
John Wileman
Mehemiah Cox.
John Spooner
Sister Roads.
Sister Gill.
Oliver Grott.
Lukes Ashwood.
William Grott.
Edward Dent.
Nicolas Maling.
Samuell Smith
John Thornely.
Ralph Underwood
James Giddons.
Samuell Youreman.
John Youreman
Susanna Cooper.
Sister Whobler.
Anne Rush.
Mary Clare.
bro: Clarke.
Sister Norman
Sister Wiggins
Sister Hurkle
Thomas Sansom.
James Fisher.
William Hawkins.
Mary Stokes
Elizabeth Gibbins
Sarah Cane
Mary Lodin
Joane Berry
Susan Blemwell.
Walter Storer.
John Clarke
Samuell Holroft
Sister Thorowgood
Sister Cooper.
Sister Fisher
Sister Hunlokes.
Sister Cooke
Mary Harris

Humphry Thorowgood
Sister Mallrib
Mary Hutton
Martha Field
Sister Harral
Elizabeth Hale
John Waite.
Anne Selstock
Sister Clayton
Sister Hadsock
Sister Haddock.
Mary Crocker
Anne Burrowes.
Elizabeth Edwards
Bro. Wilson
Sister Ashwood
friend Mauricks
Sister.
Sarah Malin
Mary Haggar
Sister Dent
Sister Mabbat
Henry Ashwood
Robert Day
Mary Davis
Agnis Bohemont
Ann Smith
Mrs Austin
Thomas Hunge
Stephen Warren
John Tacker
Tho: Bunyan.
Sister Whorlow
Tho: Witt
Sist: Bellot
Tho: Gibbs
Sister Hemon.
Sister Lamord
Bro. Baldock
Bro Scotchman
Bro Sutton
Sister Cooper
Sister Thornley
Will Gardiner
Sister Smith
Sarah Lowenton
Marke Lowenton
Margret Whitman
Elizabeth Bateman
Tanner
Sister
Sister
Will
Brother
her

57 persons added this list from the beginning of this Church to the 26 of the 1 month 1673.

Sister Falcon
Sister Hillyard
Sister Johnson
Brother Langley
Sisters Langley
Sister Batter
Sister Pearse.
John Marton
Sister Lake
Sister Sutton
Sister
Peter Drysdale
Hannah Wilson and
his wife
Sister Croft
Sister Downer
Sister Wilson
Elizabeth Whitman
Sister Tindall
Sister Hollandmarsh
Sister Marton
Sister Robo.
Hannah Browne.
John Hanchet
Edward Shipford
Benjamin Goodman
Sister Pearson
Judith Myrrill
Thomas woodard
John Bardwell
William Pitkin
Sister Storah
Bro John Whitehead
Elizabeth Barber
Sister Bateson
Nicholas Low
William



[7]

& Names of ye Members of ye Congregation 1692

Sara Tingley
Kathrine Bunyan
1693 William Crowsbury
Mary Bigraud
Mary Joyce
John Bunyan
William Bedford
Sarah Knight
Elizab Sills
Ann — Gates
Christian Larkin
Cafe
Elizabeth Webb
Crotker
Susana Gray
Sister Holding
Sonia Goodman
Kathrine Hastings
Mary Cafe
mary Mastr
Ann Thomas
Eliz. Langley
Tho: Squire & Jun.

Mrs Sibley
Milasent Wadmore
Ann Harris
Susana Marshall
Rich Swetman
Susan Elston
Sister Hawkins
Rich Whiteman
Martha Mackris
James Taylor
Sister Lurcw
1694 Tho: Watts
Mary Stanton
Wid Lurcw
Sarah Hawkins of Chesh
Sister Lawr
Jn Farell Ann Barr
Robert Bray 60
Mary Coast
Jn Stanton
Mary Clark
Sarah Smith
Francis Baxter
Alice Clarke

Tho: Clark Junior
Tho: Watkin
Geo: Huckle 5
Tho: Langley
Ann Jones
Lewis Sutton
Mary Fountain
Ann Coast
Wil Meakes
Han: Webb
Mary Squire
Mary Clark 1695
Katherine Woodward
Mary Chase
Mary the Baking
Robert Butcher
Elizabeth Smith
Elizabeth Star
Christ: Smith
Sister Star
Joshua Read
Mary Hawks
Sister Brayland 6
Thalalak Baking
Eliz: Chase
Han: Bamforth
Mary Phillips
Ann Herring

Sarah Carter
Ann Beck
Rich Savill
Wil Wilshir
Steven Huckle
Sarah Haunch
Eliza: Goodman
Thomas Veale 1696
Elizab: Bursey
Alice Burk
Eliz: Wyat
Mary Cooch
John Pryor
Tho: Hobbart
Rob: Fountain 7
Mark: Williamson
Kath: Cerley
Tho: Wells
Mary Walker
Luff
Mary Cafe
Jayke Marsh
Eliz: Crocker
Eliz Simons
Mary Robins
Jahiah Smith
Mary Crocker
Dan: Millard
1697

Ann Pryor
Eliz: Browne
Christ Mars
Jos: Man
An Cherowgood 60
Mary Harry
Sar: Partridge
Sist Munns
Sr. Sar: Martin 1698
Sist Mary Basterfield
An Hawkins
Tho: Browne
Sist: Judith Sheppard
Sist Smith
Sist Francis Turner 70
Sist Anne Spring
Sist Mary Butcher
Br Rob Bradford
Br Eliz: Stocks
Sist Freeman
Sist Whipham 1699
Br Nich Freeman
Sist: Mary Glover
Sist Sar: Sutton
Br Jn Seton 60
Br Wm Abbington
Jn Gray
Sist Lake
Sist: Whipham
Ann Bond
Br Edw: Turner
Sist Mary Newman
Sist: Eliz Knight 1700
Will Batch
Eliz: Basterfield 70
Br Hitchcock
Sist Bodington
Sist Eliz: Bayly
Br Tho: Basset
Br Tho: Brittman
Sist Ann Crawley 1701
Sist Ann Bruce 1702
Sist: Dorothy Bunting
Sist Bardolph
Sist: Mary Simpson
Sist Eliz: Clark 100
Br John Lambert
Sist: Eliz Greenwood
Br Jn Scott
Sist Ann Scott
[illegible]
[illegible] Kipley
[illegible] Chester
Mrs Frances Wingate 1703
Eliz: Prigmore
Mary Dawson 10
Ann Shipherd
Mrs Ann Wingate
Ann Turner
Wil Read 1704
Mary Parker
Bailey

[8]

[the next folio is numbered 11]

Martha Spring
Sarah Stogdall
Sarah Whitbread
Eliz: Hyll 1703
Jnº Whitbread
Rachel Kingate
Ann Waddock
Eliz: Hill +
Tho: Mason
Eliz: Longley
Ann Preston
Mary Green
Mrs Parrott
James Marshall 1706
Mary Rugby
Mary Coppenthwaite
Eliz: Giles
Mary Overall 66
Sarah Ireland
Sarah Stoakes
Tho Cuthff 42
Mary Cuthff
Alice Goodman
Sist Cuthbert
Sara Savill 40
Benj Crocker
Ruth Crocker
Sist Hill
Jos. Willcox
Sist Wilcox
Br: Ruckle
Mary Sawyer
Eliz Baddy
Sar: Rushead
Robt Knott
Sist [illegible]
Br Dowson
Mary Oake
Sar: Harris 13
Sist Harris 12
Sist Wines 13
Sister Vincent

Sist [illegible] 1709
Sist Cuthbert
Br [illegible]
Br Kingate
Sist: Topham 1710
Br Hickett
Br Redman
Sist Mary Armes
Br Parker
Sist White Bedford
Br Clobbs +
Br Rich: Burger
Sist Ann Arnis
Br Nicho Bagshaw 1711
Mrs Edwards
Br Wm Woodward
Br Jn Stogdale +
Br Nath: Jompson
Br John Wapshott
Br [illegible]
Br Jos: Matbury
Br Jos: Watts
Sist Ann Sawyer 1712
Br Rich: Brett
Sist Eliz: Salsbury
Sist Ann Shar[illegible]
Br Wm Fill
Sist Eliz: Watford
Sist Mary Wootton
Br Abrah: Bulton
Br Tho: Ruth
Br David Peggs
Br Sam: Joseph
Br Jos Bagshaw
Sist Hannah
Br Jona: Wallis
Sist Mary Rathbone
Sist Ann Mans +
Sist Jane Hawkins
Br Jon Jolyer
Sist Ann Dofsiter
Sist Abig: Mans
Sist Sarah Mathews
Sist Eliz Pearce
Br Tho: Brown
Br Tho: Marks
Sist Mary Ruth
Br Sam Hemming
Br Audley Gerrard
Sist Hannah Eliz
Br John Cooper
Sist Eliz: Armes
Sist Bridgt Mapham
Sist Mary West

Sist Eliz: Whitehead
Sist Eliz: Whitehead Armes
Sist Hugh Manton
Sist — Wm son
Sist A[illegible] Gr[illegible] 16
Sist: Walkwin 1715
Sist Cooper
Sist: [illegible]
Sist: [illegible] Coombs
Sist Purton
Sist: Sylvanus
Br [illegible] 1716
Sist: Baynes
Br Simpson John
Br Saml Joyliffe
Sist Marbury Wife
Br Geo: Marbury
Br Jnº Sheldon
Sist Jab: Wright
Br Ch: Ruth
Sist: Mary Ruth
Sist King
Sist Robinson
Sist Eliz Smith
Sist Ann Barker 1718
Br Tho Bigrave sr
Br Sam: Larkin
Sist Hannah Cordell
Sist Mary Cartwright
Sist: Ann Gamo
Br Tho: Woodward
Br John Clarke
Sist: Mary Jompson 1719
Sist Eliz: Combes
Sist Rebecca Block
Sist Jus: Sandford
Br Robt Haynes
Br Wm Manton
Sist: Dorothy Manton
Br Tho: Russell
Sist Russell
Br Rich: Russell
Sist: Holmes
Sist Armes
Br Quince
Br Cryor Sam 18
Br John Smith
Sist Dorcas Brougham
Sist Sar: Rogers
Sist Eliz: Smith
Sist Anne Waddock
Sist Keath Salsbury

Tho: Brew
Sarah Parry
Ann Rush
Eliz: Hill +
Mary Langford
Eliz: Skelton
Mary Salsbury 1720
Eliz: Norwood
Mary Randall
Winifred Craddock
Sarah Homes
Henry Hunt +
Mary Watts
Hannah Pearson 19
Jnº: Larkin + 1721
Mary Harvey
Sist Cox of Salt
Br Wm Odell
Br Wm Wiltshire 1724 +
Eliz: Green +
Jane Davenport
Ann Fleetwood
Grace Adams
Tho: Frigns
Sarah Wilshire
Sam: Green
Sarah Woodward
Ann Wigging
Mary Hunt
Jnº Jompson
Young Wid: Arnis
Mary Frigns 1725
Br Stockdales wife
Ruth Mace
Deborah Quarry
Anne Sam + 1726
Sister Smith
Mary Jompson 17[illegible]
Dr Stringer
Mary Stringer 1730
Eliz Lucas
Eliz Perry
Lydia Gale
Sar Groves
Sam: Whiteman
Wm Perry 1731
Valure Rush
Mary Sudbury
Mary Depiter
Sar Negus Wid 1732
Sist Negus

Wid Gaddon
Ann Wr[illegible] 1735
Mary Field
Mark Bromsall
Mary Smith
Sar Simmons
Bobt Huckle
Hester Pike
Mark Bell

Sar Facelure +
Wid Sudbury 1734
Wid Allen
Wid Robinson
Eliz King +
Mary Dawin
Eliz Bilney
Wid Cox +

60

Names of the Brethren — a List of the Church taken January 11th 1754

Men 30
Women 86
124

1 Samuel Sanderson Pastor dec'd
2 Jno Savill dead
3 Tho' Woodward dead
Jno Clockdale dead
Daniel Negus dead
Wm Willsher dead
Deacons

4 Wm Odell dead
Tho. Palmer dead
Joseph Fralove dead
Tho' Rush dead
5 Francis Jennings dead
6 Jonathan Negus
7 Jno Rowton dead
8 Wm prior dead
9 Samuel Croker dead
Charles Thompson dead
10 Joseph Ruthead dead
11 Wm Brown withdrawn
Samuel Walton dead
Wm Block dead
Tho' Wainwright dead
Joseph Negus cast out
12 Wm Niles
13 Jno Rush dead
14 Henry Crosby dead
15 Thomas Pearson dead
16 Rich' Lyon alias Smith dead
17 Samuel Palmer Dismissed
18 Willm Lyon alias Smith
19 Thomas Askew Leach dismissed
20 William Stillington withdrawn
21 Stephen Odell
22 John Manning dead
23 William Negus

Men 38
Wom 33

1 Rob. Huckle dead 30
2 Sam. Larkins dead 31
3 Jno Larkins dead 32
4 Sam prior dead 33
5 Wm Cox dead 34
6 Jno Fauch dead
7 Isaac Fauch dead 35
8 Benj. Croker dead
9 Henry Slack dead 36
10 Wm Malden dismissed 37
11 Jno Salisbury dead
12 Joseph Mackerness dead 38
13 John Jackson dead 39
14 Philip Smith dismissed to Mr Pikes Church in London
15 Jo. Cowper died since 40
16 John Jervas dismissed Jan. 1754 dead 41
17 Ebenezer Custarson 42
18 John Whiteman 43.
19 Wm Rayner withdrawn
20 Wm Bull Dismissed
21 Edward Manning dead

The following were admitted since & above 1 Jan. 1754.

New list at the begining of the Book
Since which this has been Disregarded
& also another at the other end of y^e

a List of the Church

Names of the Sisters

New Members since 1737 (13
72.
47 now old ones
1 1 9

- ✝Mary Savill dead
- ✝Mary Chandler dead
- ✝Mary Simpson dead
- ✝Hannah Frulove dead
- ✝Ann Edwards dead
- Ann Sherman dead
- ✝Ann Crook dead
- ✝Eliz Greene dead
- Eliz. Benson dead
- Eliz. Pearse dead
- Jane Marks dead
- ✝Ann Jackson dead
- ✝Martha Bell dead
- ✝Ann Thompson dead
- ✝Martha Bromsell dead
- ✝Mary Longford dead
- Grace Pain dead
- ✝Abigal Munns dead
- ✝Mary Dove dead
- ✝Mary Negus dead
- Dorcas Clare dead
- ✝Eliz. Stockdale dead
- ✝Eliz. Odell dead
- Mary Franklin dead
- Eliz. Woodward now off
- Ann Belsham now off
- Frances Sanderson dead
- ✝Hannah Negus dead
- ✝Hannah Watts dead
- ✝Eliz. Croker dead
- ✝Sarah Groves dead
- ✝Lydia Gale dead
- ✝Ann peck dead
- Mary Crane dead
- Eliz King dead

- Catherine Fooks dead
- ✝Ann Medbury dead
- ✝Mary Hervey dead since May 3 1758
- Sarah Sherman dead
- Wm. Cradock dead
- Ann Cox dead
- Eliz. Hill dead
- Eliz. Wright dead
- Hannah Willimot married
- ✝Mary Thompson dead
- ✝Mary Sudbury dead
- ✝W^m Hooker dead
- ✝Mary Walton dead
- Martha Lett dead
- Susan Worrell dead
- Ann Mackness dead
- ✝Mary Whil dead
- Eliz. Chapman dead
- Rediviva Mattens dead
- Sarah Barnes dead
- ✝Mary Stephenson dead
- ✝Martha Cowdale dead
- Mary Jennings —
- Rachel Hensman removed
- ✝Dorcas Broughton dead
- Mary Watford dead
- Mary Salisbury dead
- ✝Mary Wooton dead
- ✝Mercy Perrin dead
- Mary Baker dead
- Ann Hickle dead
- Eliz. Simpson dead
- Eliz. Rutthead dead
- Hannah Barker Ravingham
- ✝Mary King dead
- ✝Sarah Tanch dead

- Eliz. Block dead
- ✝Martha Woodward (Burkitt) dead
- Eliz. Brown dead
- ✝Susan Morrice dead
- ✝Christian Gale alias Winns dismissed
- ✝Ann Greene now Hill dead
- ✝Sarah Hill now dead alias Brayboy
- Mary Camkin dead
- Ann Taylor dead
- Sarah Odell dead
- Martha Jawley dead
- Catherine Reynolds dead
- Mary Smith dead
- Ann Kilpin now Ward Dead
- Mary Kilpin now Lilly — added since Jan 1 1754
- Ann Groves
- Ann Fairchild cut off
- Mary Eagle dead
- ✝Elizabeth Lyon dead alias Smith
- Sarah Lyon now alias Smith
- Hannah Shephard now Pratt
- Sarah Stockdale now Negus die 13 Jan 17[illegible]
- Mary Stewardson
- Mary Coventon
- Anna Palmer dead
- Elizabeth Custarson
- Mary Hardwick dead
- Hannah Parkins now Edwards
- Eliz. Huckle dead
- Dinah Woodward dead
- Sarah Woodward gone away
- Abigal Wells with Drawn
- ✝Elizabeth Knott dead
- Mary Bull dead

Brethren a List of the Church of Christ at Berwick taken January 1st. 1761

Brethren

1 Samuel Jemerson died 29 Jany 1765. Pastor
2 John Lovell Dead 1764 } Deacons
3 Thomas Woodward Dead
4 William Willsher Dead
5 Daniel Negus Dead
6 William Odell Jun. dead 1764.
7 Thomas Rush Died 7 Sept. 1766.
8 Samuel Larkin Died 22 Dec. 1767
9 John Larkin Died 6th Aug. 1771.
10 Samuel prior dead Nov. 1762.
11 Robert Ruckle dead
12 Will.m prior dead Feb. 14. 1765
13 John Jackson Died May 1785
14 Joseph Freelove Died 21. Oct. 1777
15 Jonath Negus } Deacons
16 Francis Jennings Dead
17 Thomas Palmer dead
18 Charles Thompson Dead
19 Joseph Mackenes died 7 Octo. 1766.
20 William Cox died 25 Oct. 1769.
21 Wm Brown withdrawn 1778.
22 Tho Wainwright died 10 Sept. 1776
23 Wm Wiles
24 John Rush dead 1761
25 Henry Cressy cut off. see p. 192
26 Isaac Tanch Dead Jan. 4. 1766.
27 Wm Mulden cut off 31 March 1774
28 Richd Lyon Dies June 27. 1776
29 Tho Cooper [illegible] 1778
30 Samuel Palmer died 24 Nov. 1761 Copartner with our Lord at Hackney
31 Wm Lyon 12-5
32 Thos Leach cut off 2 Sept. 1778.
33 Wm Stillington withdrawn 1778
34 Ebenezer Custerson dead. } Deacons
35 Stephen Odell
36 John Jervis dead 1765
37 John Whiteman
38 Wm Negus
39. Wm Rayner withdrawn 1778.
40 Wm Bull Pastor of ye Church 1764
41 Edward Manning Dead since ye above
42 Tho Broadhall
43 Jno Kilpin
44 Jno Peck of Biddenham cut off. 1775.
45 Tho' Charis, Kempton
6. John Baffet Dito cut off
47. James Whiteman deceased Carding
48. Wm Wells of Cardington ordained without a Dismission Town
49 Thos Woodward Junr.
50 Wm Tansley
51. Edward Wells
52 Samuel Custerson Dead
53 Jonathan Hopkins
54 George Man died 18 May 1781
55 Sherman Jefferys
56 John Cooper
57 Wm Maynard cut off see p. 193
58 Robert Castleman
59. Tho Rush Junr. by Dismission
The Revd Joshua Symonds by Do

See a new List at the other end of ye Book

(A List of yr Sisters)

Sisters

1 ~~Ann Shermath~~ Dead
2 Ann Crook Dead Dec 1762
3 ~~Eliz: Bengan~~ Dec 11th May 1768
4 Eliz Pearse Dead
5 ~~Jane Marks~~ Died 1767
6 ~~Eliz Odell~~ died 2 Feb 1767
7 Dorcas Clare
8 Martha Bromsell Dead Jan: 7: 1766
9 Martha Bell Dead 1764
10 ~~Mary Cox~~ Deceased ~~Ann Thompson~~ Dead 1761
11 Mary Langford Dead April 1763
12 Grace Pain Died 18th 1769
13 Abigal Munns Dead
14 Mary Franklin Dead
15 Eliz Woodward withdrawn 1773
16 Ann Bellham withdrawn 1773
17 Frances Jamerson Died 3 Sept 1773
18 Rach: Hensmen Dead
19 Martha Burkitt Dead April 11 1763
20 Mary Jennmas
21 Sarah Gro[illegible] Dead
22 Lydia Gale Dead
23 Ann Peck Dead
24 Mary Ann Dead
25 Eliz Kines Dead
26 Catherine Fogbs
27 Ann Wadbury Dead May 1761
28 Wm Cradock Dead about March 1766
29 Ann Cox Died 25 Sept 1770
30 Eliz Hill Dead Dead 1766
31 Eliz Wright Dead January 1763

32 Ham: Williams Died 21 Feb 1775
33 Wm Stoakes Dead Dec Oakley, 1763
34 Martha Lett died 20 Sept 74
35 Susan: Worrell 150 Dead 1771
36 Ann Machenzie Dead
37 Mary White Dead
38 Rediviva Marlow Dead Sept 1774
39 Sarah Barnes Dead Dec 1765
40 Mary Stapleton Dead
41 Martha Cowdale died 2 May 1766
42 Mary Watford Dead
43 Mary Salisbury Died 8 June 1761
44 Mercy Perrin died 29 Sept 1766
45 Mary Bapet Dead
46 Ann Huckle
47 Eliz Simpson Died 15 April 1768
48 Eliz Rutthead
49 Hen: Barber Dead
50 Mary King Dead May 1765
51 Sarah Finch 1764 Dead
52 Eliz Block
53 Mary Cumkin withdrawn 1773
54 Ann Taylor Dead
55 Sarah Odell 1761 Dead
56 Martha Tansley died 26 June 1767
57 Cath: Reynolds Dead
58 Mary Smith Died 2 Sept 1766
59 Ann Ward Dead
60 Mary Kilpin now Lilly
61 Ann Groves
62 Ann Fairchild cancelled
63 Mary Eagle Dead

64 Sarah Lyon Frances
65 Hannah Pratt
66 Sarah Negus died 13 Jan 1777
67 Mary Stuardson
68 Mary Coventon
69 Ann Palmer withdrawn 1773
70 Eliz Custerson
71 Mary Hardwick
72 Hanh Larkin Dead
73 Eliz Huckle Dead
74 Dinah Woodward Dead
75 Sarah Woodward
76 Abigal Wells withdrawn Jan 1774
77 Eliz Knott Dead
78 Mary Bull Savi[illegible] 1763 Dead
79 Sarah Sherman
80 Dorothy Larkin alias Bapt
81 Ann Palmer Dead
82 Mary Hensmen
83 Temperance Church
84 Ann Hare
85 Sarah Burgess
86 Mary Woodward
87 Eliz: Frowlove
88 Ann Wells alias Kilby
89 Martha Odell
90 Sarah petitt Died Belvy 1778
91 Eliz: Belsham withdrawn 1773
92 Sarah Palmer withdrawn 1773
93 Eliz Cirs of Coyle Dead
94 Mary Rollins
95 Hannah Wyatt Dead
96 Eliz. Pollard
97 Frances Langdale withdrawn 1773
98 Ann Corely Dead

99. Eliz. Greene Dead
100 Susanna Rush alias Madalen
101 Ann Coombs now Risely
102 Mary Maynard alias Whiteman Dismissed
103 Sarah Flanders Dismissed to the New Church
104 Eliz: Beard
105 Sarah Saunders alias Cook
106 Mary Dunham now Weldon
107. Sarah Kitchiner now Jarman
108. Mary Jeffries.
109 Jane Emmory died 1775.
110 Mary Barber Jno. Dmg. to Dead
111. Judith Vincent Jan: 1765 Dead
112 Mary Payne alias Bolington Dead June 2. 1765.
113 Lolitia Lastoff Died 30 Aug. 1784
114 Catherine Rush by Dismission
115 Mary Carlesso
116 Eliz.h Symonds by Dismission

These 2 last since Mr Sanderson's death & Symonds' Ordination — but see a new List of those that were members at & since M.r Symonds's Ordination at the other end of this Book.

7 others died before the last general Church Meeting

Members Lost, beginning with our Late worthy & Dearly beloved Pa

1 The Rev.d Mr. Sanderson died 24 Jan. Aged 63 years & had been pastor Church upwards of 25 years —
2 Sis.r Whin Craddock Died abo.t
3 Sis.r Marth Cowdal Died 22 May
4 —— Mary Barker of St. Peters Died 13 Jun
5 Bro.r Tho.s Rush Jen.r Died 7 Sep.r
6 Sis.r Mary Smith of St. Mary's died 22
7 —— Mercy Perrin of St. Cuthberts died
8 13.r Jos Mackerness of Wootton . . . died
9 Sis.r Eliz Hill —— Elstow ——
10 Sis.r Eliz Odell —— St. Cuthberts 9 Feb
11 Sis.r Marth Tansley — Cottonend — 26 Janu
12 Sister Jane Franks died 13.th Oct. —
13 Sister Susannah Nowell 15.th Jan.r —
14 Bro.r Sam.el Larkin —— 22.d Dec.r —

These 3 last since I Symonds's Ordination

Isaiah 49. 20. The children which thou shalt after thou hast lost the other, shall say again Thine ears, The place is too straight for me place to me that I might dwell.

Amos 9. 11. In that day will I raise up the of David that is fallen, & close up the breac & I will raise up his ruins, & I will build the days of old.

The first Gathering of this Church of Christ was in the yeare 1640 at wch time prayd by our Br Harrington one of the first twelve of whose names are all recorded in the list of Members, who in their Entring into Gospell order made choice of Mr Jo Gifford to be their Pastor who by the exactest account can now be had hath been dead 40 yeares & of September last this account was taken from his daughter Hagus A Sumners in Church in the yeare 1696:

NB Mr Bunyan began to preach some time in the year 1656:
But was not ordained Pastor till 21st of October — 1671.
He entered into the joy of his Lord 31st of August — 1688.
So that He was a preacher of the gospel 32 years — & Pastor of this Church 17 years.

At the meeting of the Congregation at Bedford the 24th of the fforth mon: 1656.

Sister Coopers desire of joyning with the Congregation was considered, and bro: Burton; bro: Spensely; and bro: Harrington; were appointed to go to her, for the farther satisfaction of the Church.

Humphrey Merrill, also and his wife desiring to joyne wth the Church; it was agreed, That bro: Spensely, and bro: Harrington, and bro: Childe; should go to discourse with him; and that some of our Sisters goe to his wife likewise; in order to the Churches farther satisfaction.

Upon the same account, our bro Crow, bro: Silby, and bro: Ronalls were sent to Sister Crompe. And Sister Baker, Sister Wheeler, Sister Reioldes were appointed to go to Sister Witt. And also Sister Boune, Sister Deane, Sister Shephard and Sister Rush were appointed to speake with Sister Hodsoll.

Mrs Wallers desire was also considered, but the Church not being satisfyed in her did appoint bro. Harrington to go to her; and to speak freely with her about the worke of grace in her soule.

It was also agreed that the 7th of the 3d mon: be set apart to seeke God in prayer

At the meeting of the Congregation at Bedford the 28th of the 3d month.

The Congregation being satisfyed touching Mr Merrill, and his wife their into Fellowship. Our Sister Cooper was likewise received into Comu
Also bro: Gibby, Sister Shoreman, and Sister Deane were againe appointed to go Sister Hodsoll, and if they received full satisfaction, to desire her to be at the next meeting.

Our bro: Crow desires to stay still upon the account of Baptisme.
Mrs Walker was according to appointment spoken with, and advised yet to
Sister Cooles desire of joyning with the Congregation being represented to them
appoint Sister Boore, Sister Childe, and Sister Goslin, to go to her, in order to
information, and satisfaction touching her. Goslin, to go to her, in order to

Upon the same account Sister Hoyns, and Sister Spencer were appointed to go
Elder. And Sister Bishop, Sister Barker, and Sister Ronalls, were sent to Sister Cr
It was also agreed that Oliver Dike should (in answer to his desire) give an ac
the works of Grace in his soule next Church meeting: in order to his joyning w
And that Sister Witt be desired to waite a while.
Our bro: Childe having signified in a letter that he was dissatisfyed wth, and stood at for
distance from the Church; upon the account of bro: Burtons joyning with the Brethren at
Woburning. our bro: Burton answered That although his judgement is that he may joine
unto wth them that preach there; yet for the peace and union of the Church, he
will submit himself to their direction.
Our Sister Luford having upon this account of Baptisme (as those pretended) withdrawn from
the Congregation; was required to be at this meeting to render a reason for her so
doing

doing; but being come shee refused so to doe her selfe alone, unles shee had her husband and another with her.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 26th of the 4th month.

Our bro: Oliver Dike was received into fellowship with this Congregation. Our sister Mary Siler was likewise received.

Sister Coale is still to be considered of; and the sisters before appointed, are againe to repaire to her.

Sister Coole also is still to be considered of, and the sisters that repaired to her before are to give in farther testimony next meeting: ~~as formerly shee was received.~~

Bro: Crompe was quickly after fully satisfyed and received. Bro: Crompe desires to stay still upon the account of Baptisme.

Sister Hodsell of Olney is also farther considered of, and bro: Gibby, sister Deane, sister Rush, sister Fortnam, and sister Bishop, are desired after Conference with her, to give the Church an account touching her, next meeting, at which shee was received.

John Wilson desire of joyning with this Congregation was mentioned; and it was agreed that he should give an account of the works of grace in his soule, next meeting.

It was agreed also, that Anne Nitson should be received as a member of this Congregation, according to her desire.

Jonas Groth at Woollaston desiring to joyne in fellowship with us; it was agreed that before the next meeting, a day should be set apart to seek the Lord concerning it.

Union of Christs It was concluded likewise that the members of the Quire of Christ in and about Stoughton, may breake bread with us, and we with them, as the Lord shall give opportunity.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 28th of the 6th month.

It was agreed that sister Coale of Wotton be admitted a member of this Congregation. Bro: Samuell Storrs, and bro: John Wilson were also received into fellowship with us.

It is agreed that a frendly course be taken, either by publick petition, or some private way, to gather a summ of money for the releife of our sister Deane.

It is agreed also that next fourth Day of the weeke come fortnight, be set apart to seeke God by prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the 1st Day of the 8th month.

Elders Appointed It was agreed that two brethren should be made choyce of every monthly meeting, to go abroad to visit our brethren and sisters; and to certifie us how they doe in body, and soule; and to stirre them up to come especially at our monthly meeting to us to Bedford: and to let them know if they come not, the Church will expect an account of the reason of their absence. For this worke bro: Samuell Storrs and bro: Grumbly were appointed at this time for the next month.

Desired that bro: Burton would spend one houre in a weeke, in exhorting ~~sisters~~ in the County Goale: and he consented to enter upon that worke, the week following.

16th Day of this month was appointed to seeke God in by prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the 30th of the 8th month.

Sr Robinson desiring to joyne with us, it was agreed that sister Childe, and sister Boore, should continue with her, and informe the Church.

Upon the same account sister Storrs, and sister Coventon, were sent to sister Harper. sister Blunt, and sister Shephard were likewise sent to sister Bird. And sister Boscoventon, and bro: John Storrs were appointed to visit the Church the month ing.

It was agreed that the 13th of the next month be spent in seeking God.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 9th month.

It was agreed that friend Harper before mention'd should yet waite.

Our sister Bird was admitted a member of this Congregation. And Martha Crow was likewise received into fellowship with this Church.

Sister Luddone desire of joyning with the Congregation being considered, the Church did appoint sister Bosworth, sister Blunt, and sister Kendall to resort to her, in order to their satisfaction.

Upon the same account sister Grumer, sister Shephard, and sister Taylor, were sent

sent to Sister Gibbs. And Sister Thomas Sister Cranston, and Sister Morrill, were sent to Sister Smith.

It was agreed that the 5th day of the next week be kept as a day of prayer to God, upon the account of Gods hand upon many of the members, and others in the places where we dwell.

Our Bro: Harrington, and Bro: Morrill were appointed to visit our friends, this next month.

In reports of the present distress of many of our friends, upon whom Gods hand of visitation lyes; it is thought fit, and agreed, that our brethren doe according to their severall abilityes deposite something in the hands of our Bro: Gourdy: who is desired to expend the same to, and for our severall Distressed friends use, according to the knowledge of their severall necessityes shall by any means come to him.

collections for the poor

At a meeting of the Church the 25th of the 10th month.

It was agreed that Sister Sugden be admitted a member of this Congregation; and also Sister Gibbs. And that friend Smith aforementioned be staide for the present.

Upon friend Allens desire of joyning with us; Bro: Whitbread and Bro: Crow were appointed to commune with him.

We do also agree that such persons as desire to joyne in fellowship, if upon the conference of our friends with them, who shall be sent for that purpose; our said friends be satisfyed of the truth of the work of grace in their hearts; then they shall desire them to come to the next church-meeting, and to waite neare the place assigned for the meeting, that they may be called in: And if notwithstanding that first satisfaction, it be afterwards thought fit, that any person so appearing be yet delayed, That then some of the brethren go forth, and have conference with them, and labour in the wisdome, and Spirit of the Gospell, to incourage them to further waitings; and indeavour the prevention of any temptation, that by the delyall of admittance they may be exposed to. But if the brethren sent forth, be not satisfyed in the work of Grace in the persons they are sent to; then they shall not desire their coming to y^e Church meetings.

Also Bro: Nelson, and bro: Wheeler were appointed to visit our brethren, and sisters, for y^e next month.

Whereas Sister Wilson desires to walke in fellowship with us, we appoint Sister Blunt, Sister Bosworth, and Sister Grover; to commune with her.

It was appointed that the 15th day of the next month be set a part to seek God, and returne praises to him.

Information was also given to the Church, of the miscarriage of bro: Oliver Dirkes of Milton, which was very great: for he (as he saide) having lost a sheep, and a sheep being staide in another field, he was sent to owne it if it were his: and he came and owned it; and [illegible] by the way (as himself expressed) his judged in his Conscience that it was not his; yet did not carry it back againe, but took it away and kept it, and sold the sheep & skin, and would have sold the sheep, there being not above 4^d or 8^d difference in bargaining: But the sheep being owned, he was brought before a Justice, where he restored the sheep, and 20^s for the fleece to the party whose sheep it was: And all this to the great Dishonor of God, the wounding of their owne soules, and great scandall to the Church of Christ, of w^ch he is a member. Upon consideration thereof being sent for by this Congregation, after a full debate had, and things aforesaide proved to him, besides some confession of his owne; but still also being opened, and charged home upon him; he was by generall consent withdrawne from, for the present; and the full result of his fact, was to be considered of next Church meeting.

The Church doubting with bro: Dirkes for miscarriage

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 27th of the 11th month.

Whereas at our last Generall Church meeting, a full debate concerning the fact charged upon Oliver Dirkes was had; and the matter left partly to be further determined this meeting; we being also now informed by one of our members, that he doth deny part of the fact charged upon him, and proved to his face; are agreed, that our former determination remains firme, and also that bro: Gourdy, bro: Harrington, and bro: John Brown; do admonish him, and tell him; that the Church did expect to heare of another frame of Spirit in him, and that they are now more dissatisfyed than before.

But Sister Wilson before mentioned was staide for the present; till some members might more fully satisfy themselves. Sister Cole also was deferred till the next meeting.

Upon the desire of bro: Smith of Kempston to joyne with us, our bro: Crow, and bro: Robert Wallis were appointed to commune with him, and if they were satisfyed, to desire him to come to give in his experience the next meeting.

It is agreed that bro: John Rush, and bro Silby be appointed to visit our friends next mon: And that next 4th day of the week be set apart to seek God; and quickly after another day to consider the affairs of the Church.

M

At a Meeting of the Church the 25th of the 12th month.

It was agreed that brot Crompe: bro: Smith: Sister Robinson. and Sister Cole, be received in to fellowship with this Congregation.

The courtship doing with Martha Radwell.

Christ: Sister Wilson should come to the next Church meeting, in order to joyne with us.

And because the worke shall come afforded with Martha Radwell for some things; they do appoint bro: Crowdon; bro: Spooner; and bro: Harrington to inquire about her; and to certify them

Also the 12th Day of the next month was appointed to be set apart to seek God.

And bro Georges Wilson, and bro: John Child are desired to visit our Brethren, and Sisters, this next month.

Bro: John Crane of Elvetto desiring to joyne in fellowship with us; bro Joh: Rush, and bro: Joh: Hanns were appointed to communicate with him, in order thereunto.

Whereas bro: Thomas Allen desireth to walke in fellowship with us, and we are satisfyed of the worke of grace in his Soule, onely he requires that he should submit his gift (formerly apprised) to the judgement of the Church; and he not being at present willing therto was desired to consider of it till the next meeting.

1657. At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 6th Day of ye 1st month. 1657.

Whereas bro: Thomas Allen was to consider of it till this meeting whether he would submit his gift to the judgement of the Church; and he yet refuseth so to do; it is agreed that his receiving be stayed for the present.

Sister Wilson was received into fellowship with this Congregation.

The bro: appointed to speake with bro: Crane having neglected so to do, were required not to fail in their business, by the next meeting.

It was agreed that the 12th Day of the next month be set apart to seek God about the affaires of the Church, the affaires of the Nation, and the works of God in y world.

And bro Emery Rush, and bro: English were appointed to visit our friends for the next month.

At the meeting of the Church the 20th of the second month. Many of the friends were absent upon a publick occasion, so that meeting was then cald.

At a meeting of the Church the 28th of the 3d month.

It was agreed that Bro: John Crane be admitted a member of this Congregation, upon this profession that he joyneth with us, as we are in union with Christ, though differing in judgement about some outward things.

Whereas bro: Mapy and his wife desire to have Communion with us; we appoint bro. Brookden, and bro: John Hanns to discourse with them in order thereunto: Sister Child also, and Sister Boore were appointed to go to Sister Mapy; and to give an account to the Church next meeting: upon the same account Sister Spencer, and Sister Blunt, were appointed to speake with Sister Cooke of Kempston. And bro. Bunyan bro: Child, and bro: Gibbons were appointed to go to friend Stratton just of Houghton. Sister Bowstead desires also of joyning with us was prounded to be considered of.

It is agreed that next 2d Day of the week come fortnight be set a part to praise God for his goodnes in deliverings out of our late trouble: and to seek God for direction in discoursing with any of our differing friends.

It was likewise ordered that bro. Rush, and bro: English give an account of their visiting our friends at the next meeting: they being now both absent.

Also next 2d Day of the weeke come fortnight was appointed to be set apart to seek God about the Choosing of Church officers: which was propounded 2 or 3 months agoe.

[illegible] Whereas our Sister Martha Radwell had by some evil carriages given us offence: and the sorrowful soul to admonish her to repent, that shee hath not as yet done: and her miscarriages; shee being also this day cald with before the Church; it is agreed that shee be withdrawne from; till shee be sensible of her miscarriage, and satisfaction thereof be given to the Church

At a meeting of the Church the 25th of the 4th month.

Whereas our bro: Mapys of Flamst; and his wife have been spoken with in order to their joyning with us; and found good satisfaction also hath been given, bro. Sam: Hanns is desired to speake to them to come to the next thurs-meeting, that more full satisfaction may by them be given in some things to some members in Special, and to the Church.

Upon the desire of Bro: Isaac, and Thomas Allen to joyne in fellowship with us; our bro Olton; bro: Grew; bro. Harrington, and bro: Samuell Hanns, were appointed to discourse with them about some of their practises, in order to the Churches satisfaction.

Our bro: Sam: Hanns also was desired to speake to bro: Stratton to come to give in his experiences at the next thurs meeting. It was to do by like also to bro: Whitbread he also desiring to joyne with us. Also upon the desire of Susan Taylor; Sister Bayly

Bosworth, Sister Wilson, and Sister Coulton were appointed to go to her. And Sister Rower, Sister Reid, and Sister Shephard were appointed to go to Sister Ronalls. And Sister Hemm, Sister Cooper and Sister Kennoly were appointed to go to Sister Joy.

Our bro: Dirks also desiring that the Church would take him again into consideration; it was agreed that brother Kennoly, and bro. Harrington should speake with him to see if he be indeed sensible of his miscarriage: and that he should afterwards be sent for before the Church. It was agreed also that Sister Crooks should come to the next meeting in order to her full receiving.

Also upon the account of some affaires of the Church, very urgent, our next quarterly meeting is appointed to be the 15th day of the next month.

At a meeting of the Church the 15th day of the 4th month.

It was agreed that Sister Ronalls be stayed from joyning with us for the present; and that bro: Sam: Hemm and bro: Kennoly do enquire into some things laide upon her at Grandall, in order to the Churches better information.

Our bro: Mapes and his wife, and bro: Stratton, and Sister Crooks, and Sister Joy, and Sister Sam: Taylor: were received into full communion with this congregation; they (at all others desires) professing that they give up themselves to us by the will of God upon the account of our union with Christ: resolving in the strength of Christ to walk with the Church, though they agree not in judgment in all outward things.

Our Sister Wolls desiring to joyne in fellowship with us; Sister Harrington, Sister Spencer, Sister Bosworth, and Sister Reid were appointed to commune with her; and to certify the Church. And brother John Hemm was upon the same account sent to bro. Warren.

At a meeting of the Church the 27th of y 6th month.

Our bro: John Whitman was received into full communion with this congregation.

Whereas there hath heretofore been time spent in seeking God to direct us in the choyce of officers necessary for the congregation, according to the order of the Gospell; and whereas heretofore, there were nominated, and appointed for triall our bro: Kennoly; bro: Bunyan, bro: Coulton, and bro: Robert Wallis; to exercise the office of Deacons; and bro: Bunyan being taken off by the preaching of the Gospell; We are agreed; that bro: Bunyan being otherwise imployed; our elder sons brethren before named be continued: and upon further serious and good consideration, have also made choyce of our bro: John Hemm to be joyned with them: and that at the next meeting God be sought to by the Church, upon his behalfe; that he with the other may be directed in their works.

Our Sister Ronalls was this meeting received into fellowship with us.

And our bro Harrington, and bro Joh: Hemm are appointed to visit our friends, especially those that are sick, and weake.

It is agreed that next 7th day of the week be set apart to joyne in prayer with the rest of our bre: in y three nations; according to the motion made by bro: Foster, and others with them.

Deacons chose † Mr Bunyan at this time imployed in preaching

† see a particular account of this matter Col. 1. 13.

At a meeting of the Church the 29th of y 8th month.

Whereas aforetime our bro: Dirks was withdrawn from, for his miscarriage; we are now informed that he is sensible of his sin; and hath also made reparation and given satisfaction to the person offended; we are agreed that he be sent to; to come to speake with our bro: Burton, bro: Crow, br: Harrington, and bro: Samuell Hemm; that by them the Church may receive more full information.

The 4th day of the weeke come fortnight was set apart to seek the Lord in prayer, upon the account of that visitation, that it upon Gods score, and ours.

At a meeting of the Church the 12th of the 9th month.

Whereas our brethren before appointed to speake with bro: Dirks Carters that they received some good satisfaction concerning the truth of his humiliation for his sin committed; and the whole Church being satisfyed in their report concerning him; we are agreed that he be sent for before this Church, there in publick to manifest his humiliation; that upon a further discovery of the truth of what they have heard he may be againe received, and their love confirmed to him. bro: Joh: Hemm is to give him notice.

This day fortnight was set apart to seek the Lord in by prayer; and to returne praise to him for his appearances with our brethren in their prudency the Gospell.

It was also agreed that bro: Burton; bro: Crow; bro: Harrington, and bro: Whitman, with bro. Joh: Hemm do visit our friends, and give an account how they find them next meeting.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 10th month.

Sister Wolls having formerly desired communion with us; and they that were sent to her not being fully satisfyed; there were for their further satisfaction, and the request desired to commune with her againe: and any other members that would satisfaction were desired to do so like; by the next meeting; and then to certify the Church.

Upon

20) 1657.

upon the knowledge of the desire of bro Paule Hobbins, to joyne in fellowship with us, it is desired that bro Joh: Simms, and bro Joh: Rush go to discourse with him. upon the same account sister Boore, and sister Child, and sister [illegible] were appointed to go to sister Warner.
It was agreed that the 14th of the next month be set apart to seek the Lord for the Carrying on of his works in the nation; and for the bringing forth of many soules yet ground to be brought to the birth; and for our friends that are ill.
Bro: Joh: Simms is desired to give bro: Dirk notice without fails to repaire to y^e next meeting.

At a meeting of the Church the 28th of y^e 11th month.

Brother Dirk appearing this day; and giving evidence of the truth of his repentance & the Churches satisfaction, was according to the scripture received againe into full communion

The Church deferring it in sister Chamberlains.

Sister Chamberlains having long withdrawne her self to the Churches dissatisfaction; they do appoint our bro: Whiteman, and bro: Harrington; in their name to enquire after the grounds of her so doing, and to certify the Church next meeting
The Church being fully satisfyed doe agree that sister Weller be admitted a member of this Congregation.

The Church deferring it in bro: Skelton

Whereas bro: Skelton alsoe haly withdrawne for some time, the Church doth appoint bro: Cousin, bro: Joh: Simms, and bro: Harrington, to informe themselves of the reason thereof, and to certify them.
It is agreed that the 11th day of the next month be set apart to seek God: and it is desired that friends come generally, and timely.

At a meeting of the Church the 25th of the 12th month.

It is agreed that the end the Church may have a more perfect account of the state of her members for time to come! for the worke of visiting our friends there be appointed two of Bedford for friends there; and one for each other townes; and that they give account to y^e Church at their monthly meeting; of their state, and also who doe absent from y^e ordinances of Christ in y^e Church. The persons now appointed are,
for Bedford: John Simms. for Elstow: Roger Coupe. Kempston. Mr Burton. Wilsham stead, and Houghton: bro: Harrington. for Okely: Steventon, and Radwell, John Childe.
Upon the relation of the brethren sent to bro: Skelton, the Church still remaining dissatisfyed; did appoint bro: Bunyan, and bro: Childe, further to speake with him.
And bro Bunyan: and bro: Samuell Simms were appointed to go againe to sister Chamberlain the Church upon the relation of the brethren before sent to her, remaining dissatisfyed.
It is also agreed that the 3d day of the next month be set apart to seek God in the behalf of our bro: Wheeler who hath been long ill in body, whereby his ministery haly been hindred. and also about y^e Churches affaires, and the affaires of the Nation; and for our bro: Exhibited, who haly been long ill: and also for remissness total to doe the reproof to the indictment against bro: Bunyan at y^e Assizes for preaching at Elston.

Mr Bunyan indicted for preaching at Elston.

1658.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford y^e 26th of the 1st month.

Sister Gale desires of joyning with us was propounded.
Our bro: Paule Hobbins was received into fellowship.
It is also agreed that the 15th of the next month be set apart to seek God in prayer.
The Elders appointed to visit the friends, and give an account concerning them were for Bedford. bro: Cousins. for Elstow bro: Silby. for Kempston bro: Smith. for Houghton & Wilshamstead bro: Paule Hobbins, and bro: Skelton. for Cardington bro: Whiteman. for Okely, Steventon & Radwell bro: Joh: Simms.

At a meeting of the Church y^e 29th of y^e 2d month.

It was agreed that bro: Burton, and bro Harrington, do speake to sister Wil. about her withdrawing from the ordinances of Christ in y^e Church.
Bro: Bunyan and bro: Childe having neglected to speake with sister Chamberlaine and bro Skelton; were againe reminded of it, and required to take care of it, against next meeting.
Our sister Gale was received into fellowship with this congregation.
To visit the Church members were appointed for Bedford bro: Harrington; bro: Joh: Simms for Kempston bro: Robert Wallis; for Elstow bro Crane. for Wilshamstead and Houghton bro and bro Mayes. for Cardington bro: Whiteman. for Okely, Steventon, and Radwell bro: Haines
We are agreed to set apart the 17th of the next month, to seeke the Lord about our ways & affaires which haly been propounded; and also for the furtherance of the worke of God in hearts, and in the nation.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 3d month.

Our sister Peyse living now at London, desiring here to walke with that Congregation that

X w.t Cong

Kingston, is related to: bro: Burton is desired to write a letter of recommendation to them in
her behalfe. Mr Burton was likewise pastor of this church at Thurston, before
Our sister Elizabeth Sarah Yorke desiring the like to Mr Dunnel congregation: bro: Burton
is desired to write for them also.
Our sister Warner also was received into fellowship w^th us.
Also it was agreed that the 10th of the next month be set apart to seeke the Lord; in regard of
the hand both at home, and abroad, ioyning it strongly out in visiting many with sickness.
To visit, and give the Church an account of her members were appointed. For Bedford: bro: Cooper,
bro: Sam: Fenne. For Kingston bro: Ronolds: For Houghton, and Wilshamstead; bro: Straton. For Ol-
ney & bro: Gilby. For Cardington bro: Whiteman. For Olney and Ireasbourh bro: Dirkt.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 9th month.

It was agreed, that letters be written to their friends related to us now walking [illegible] our counsel [illegible]
other congregations, for their further edification.
And that the 12th Day of the next month be set apart to seek the Lord by prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the 28th of the 9th month.

It was agreed that for the carrying on of things with the more ease and counsel in the
Church meeting: the principall of the brethren; or any other that could, should meet together a
little before, and counsell about the things that were to be done, and set them in order, and
readiness as many as they could.
There was also appointed, that a letter should be written to Katharine Hustwait now living
at London, w^th a word of exhortation about her walking there.
And that the 19th Day of the next month be set apart to seek God.

At a meeting of the Church the 24th of the 6th month.

We are agreed that for the visiting of our friends especially those that are sick be appointed
for Bedford bro: Burton bro: Joh: Fenne: for the rest, bro: Harrington.
And that sister Martha Radwell do come and speake with the Widdow that went the
3d Day of the weeke last night before our monethly meeting.
That the 16th day of the next month was appointed to be kept in prayer.
And in regard of some especiall occasions about the erecting of Edifices it was agreed that no
time should be given to all the brethren to come together on the 19th Day of the next month,
by one of the clock, to consider thereof.

At a meeting of the Church the 30th of the 7th month.

It is agreed that for the theyre of Edifices about w^ch the Lord hath been formerly sought
our brethren that are now absent do give especiall notice to all the rest of the congregation
to be present at y^e next Church meeting: That things relating thereto, may be more fully
fully considered.
And for the continuing of unity, and prevention of differences among the congregations walk-
ing with Mr Dunne Mr Wheeler & Mr Gibbs, & our selves; it was agreed that bro: Burton
bro: Grove, bro: Harrington: bro: Whiteman, &, bro: Bunyan, should within few dayes meet together
to consider of some things that may conduce to Love and unity amongst us all.
The 19th of the next month was appointed to seek God in, amongst other things for direction
in the theyre of Edifices.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of y^e 8th month.

Whereas our bro: Childe hath sent a letter from London to our Brother Burton concerning his
leaving the Church: and whereas he desired to us to take advice there of Mr Kingston Mr Goffe,
and Mr Rogers concerning the same; and yet confesseth in his letter that he did not speake to
them or any of them to any purpose; but without any more consideration continues his desire
of leaving y^e Church: that he may joyne w^th Mr Harris congregation; and resolveth to do it whe-
ther we consent or no: It is ordered by the Church that our brother Burton do write to our
bro: Childe, and fully, lightly to him; that the Church doth wholly dislike his desire in this thing,
and is utterly against his joyning himself with any other congregation; he having not as yet given
the Church any solid Scripture Grounds for this his intended practise.
Debate, also, being farther had this day about the theyre of Edifices; it was agreed that two should
be chosen; and our brethren and sisters were required to consider w^t persons the Lord shall direct
them to in the society that they shall judge fit to choose; and that they give in their names
in writing the next monethly meeting for same

The Church dealing with John Childe

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 9th month.

Whereas our bro: Childe hath joyned himself to another congregation in London, con-
trary to the letter that was sent to him: It is agreed that a letter be sent to him to meet
with some of our brethren at Bedford, the 4th day of the next month.
Sister Hawkins and sister Magdalen Cooles desire of joyning with us was propounded &:
The 4th of the next month was appointed by to be set apart to seek the Lord in prayer.

M

22) 1658. A Record of the Acts of the Church.

At a meeting of the Church ye 29th of the 10th month

Whereas our bro Childe was desired to come to some of our brethren to give an account of his leaving the Church, and hath put it off; we are agreed that he be spoken to once more by our bro: Joh: Storms to desire him to come at some convenient time, about the business before mentioned.

Our Sister Magdalen Coot was received into fellowship 4th m.

Whereas it was formerly concluded that at this meeting our friends should give in their votes for the choyce of Elders, many of them being now absent, it was agreed that they should be generally stirred up to come to the next meeting by all means, to give in their votes in papers, and if any neglect herein, the business must be concluded without them.

At a meeting of the Church the 27th of ye 11th month.

By the brethren now assembled, and by the papers containing the votes of those absent our bro: Grow, and our bro: Whiteman were chosen Elders: And it was agreed farther that both the said brethren should have notice thereof; that they may conferre with the brethren about it next Church-meeting.

It was agreed also that the 15th of the next month be set apart to seek God in prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 12th month;

Whereas our bro: Bunyan hath spoken with bro Joh: Childe to come and render a reason of his withdrawing to some of the brethren; and he refuseth to do it unless he may come before the whole congregation; we are agreed ye he have notice given him to come to ye next Church meeting.

We are agreed to set a part the 21th of the next month to seek the Lord in prayer.

Sister Hobbs desire of joyning with us was propounded.

There having been some meetings of the friends of the severall adjacent Congregations to confer of some things for the furthering of unity and love amongst us; and another meeting being appointed for the finishing of some conclusions to that end; we do agree that our bro: Bunyan, bro: Grow, bro: Harrington. do meet with the brethren of the other Churches about this matter.

1659 At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 31th of ye 1st month.

Our bro Bunyan having since the last meeting spoken to bro Childe to come to the meeting according to ye Churches appointment, and his [illegible] promise; and he refusing so to do: It is agreed by us, according to the 8th proposall agreed on by the messengers of the Churches; that in this business the advice and assistance of other Churches be desired.

It is agreed that our Sister Mary Hobbs do admitted a member of this congregation.

And that the 18th of the next month be set apart to seek the Lord.

At a meeting of the Church the 28th of the 2d month.

Whereas at the last Church meeting it was agreed, (according to ye 8th proposall of our agreement with other Congregations adjacent viz That in matters of difficulty we should advise with each other) that the advise of the other congregations should be had about Joh: Childs business; it was now farther ordered, that letters should be sent unto them, to desire the pastors of each congregation, and some other deputed members, to come to Bedford the 16th of the next month; to consult together what is to be done in this case. It is also agreed that bro: Burton; bro: Grow; bro: Whiteman; bro: Whitbread; bro Harrington, and bro: Fox shall be deputed of the Church to meet with them.

It was agreed that ye 9th day of the next month be set apart to seek the Lord in prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the 26th of ye 3d month.

Whereas the last meeting letters were appointed to be sent to the brethren of the adjacent churches for their advise about Joh: Childs carriages; and they meeting at the day appointed, the result of their advise was, That we should send to him to give under his hand in writing, his reasons why he refuseth to come to the Church, according as it hath been so often required of him; And also to give in writing the names of the Pastors, or messengers of Churches who advise him not to come. And we are agreed that bro: Whiteman; bro: Bunyan; and bro: Fox or any two of them be deputed to speak with him; and to give the an account of the premises so soone as conveniently they can.

Our Sister Hawkins of Kellow desiring to joyne with us was propounded this meeting.

At a meeting of the Church the 30th of the 4th month

Our Sister Mary Hawkins was admitted a member of this congregation.

And Sister Landy's desire of joyning with us was propounded.
Our Sister Chamberlaine being ill we desire that our Sister Bosworth, and Sister Rhuds go over to visit her, and give an account to us of her state next meeting.
We are agreed to meet next 2d Day of the week to seek the Lord for our bro: Burton, in respect of that weakness, which the Lord hath for some time exercised him with. Mr Burton the Minister & Pastor of this Congregation ill

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 5th month.

Our Sister Anne Landy was admitted a member of this Congregation.
Our Sisters that were sent to visit Sister Chamberlaine in her affliction, do informe us that she is in a very sad condition by reason of temptation: wherefore we desire our friends to seek the Lord for her in secret; and to visit her as they may gaine opportunity.
Whereas we are informed of some things concerning our bro: Dix, that we are not satisfyed in; we desire our bro: Joh: Simms to speak to him to come to us next meeting.
We are agreed to set apart the 3d Day of the next month to seek the Lord.

At a meeting of the Church the 30th day of the 6th month.

Our bro. Dix neglecting to come; his business was deferred.

At a meeting of the Church the 27th of the 7th month.

Whereas some proposalls were made by the messengers of the several Churches in this county, for the furtherance, and confirming of unity amongst us, which have been read amongst us; we with full satisfaction do approve them; and are agreed that they be recorded in some convenient place in our church-books; and read over when occasion requires.
Our bro: Childe having sent us word by Mr Gibbs that he will come over to the Church, to give an account of his departure from them; we desire our bro: Samuell Simms, to go and speake with him concerning the time.
We are agreed to set apart the 5th of the next month, to seek the Lord in prayer, for the giving in assistance to our bro: Burton, for the bearing of the word: as also to Prayer for assistance to be granted to Mr Burton in preaching
seek God for our late deliberance. &c:

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 8th month.

Whereas our bro: John Childe hath appeared before some of our brethren, and hath confessed his miscarriage in some things relating to his withdrawing from us; we desire bro: Whitman, bro: Joh: Simms, and bro: Bunyan to speak with him to come over againe some time to give further satisfaction to the Church.
The 4th Day of the next month was appointed to be set as a day of thanksgiving: but it was ordered that the last day of this month should be first spent in solemne seeking God for the nation &c:

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 9th month.

According to the usuall order of the Church in receiving members, there was admitted at this meeting to walke in fellowship with us our sisters Johanna Kidger, & Mirihall Bourgeton. The brethren before appointed to speake with John Childe, were appointed againe to desire him to come over to the meeting of the messengers of the Churches by them deputed to receive from him a further account of his withdrawing.
Our Sister Katharine Hustwayt being now at London it was agreed, that according to her desire, a letter be sent to Mr Simpson, in order to her walking with his congregation.
Whereas in regard of the weakness of our bro: Burton, and the great burthen of preparing & praying for the Church that lyes upon him; the Lord hath put into our hearts to seek to him for direction, to leade us to some fit person to be an assistant to him in this great work: In order thereunto we are agreed that the 2d next, and 2d next day of prayer, to be the 4th of the 10th month. Do consider thereof, that letters be sent (according to y^e advice of our brethren of the adjacent Churches) to Mr Simpson Mr Jessop, and Mr Cotton; for their assistance, and furtherance in our inquiring out such an able godly man, as may be suitable for our help. Mr Burton Wrote to.
We desire that our bro: Harrington, and bro: Joh: Simms take some time to speake with our bro: Dix concerning some things wherein he hath given offence; and being once or twice sent to, hath neglected to come: we desire they may deale plainely with him, concerning this and other things.

At a meeting of the Church the 29th of the 10th month.

The former agreement concerning the brethrens meeting together every 2d Day of the week before our monthly meeting, for the furtherance, and getting in a readiness for the meeting, the affairs + time to be managed, was confirmed. And it was further appointed, that every monthly meeting, some of our brethren; viz one at a time, to whom the Lord may have given a gift, be called forth and

incouraged to speake a word in the Church for our mutuall edification: And that one of the Brethren be desired to begin next meeting. And that every 3d monethly meeting speciall, all our brethren and sisters be desired to come together, without any delay or excuse.
+ We are agreed to set apart the 7th day of the next week to seek the Lord especially upon the account of the distractions of the nation: this was just before the restoration of King Charles 2.

At the meeting of the Church the 20th of the 11th month: It was agreed that the 6th day of the next month be set apart to seek God.

At a meeting of the Church the 23 of the 12th month.

The Church being offended w[i]th bro: Dipe in some points of his walking, and having sent some Brethren to speake w[i]th him, to whom his answer was not satisfactory. It is agreed that he be sent to, to come over on the 3d day of the week come fortnight, to give an account to the deputed members of the Church viz[t] to bro: Burton: bro: Crow; bro: Whitman bro: Coventon bro: Harrington, bro: Joh: Simms; touching the premisses.
The 4th day of the next month was appointed to be spent in seeking God in prayer.

1660.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 29th of the 1st month.

bro: Burton still weak yet his ministry

We are agreed, considering our bro: Burtons weakness, to entreat our bro: Wheeler; bro: Dunn bro: Gibbs, and bro: Brooden to give their assistance in the work of God in preaching and breaking of bread once every month or 3 weeks one after another on the Lords days during the time of his weakness.
appointed to dispense the word & ordinances
The 16th day of the next mon: was appointed to be spent in seeking God; w[ch] to refer to the affaires of the nation, and the weakness of our bro: Burton.

At a meeting of the Church the 25th of the 2d month.

Whereas we were agreed in our last Church meeting to seek to our 3 friends before named to give their assistance for preaching the Gospell, and breaking of bread; we have concluded farther that in case any of our 3 friends do faile by any occasion, that then our bro: Brooden do supply in their roome: and the day fixed for their beginning, it is agreed to be the next first day of the week for our meeting next monethly day: And that all our friends round about have notice given them of it, that they may make their appearance; to joyne w[th] their brethren.

+ Mr Bunyan is desired to preach at a Publick Meeting

We are agreed that our meetings on the 2d day of the week begin henceforth at noone and that the time be spent in prayer.
It was ordered according to our agreement that our bro: Bunyan do prepare to speake a word at the next Church meeting: and that our bro: Whitman faile not to speake to him of it.

At a meeting of the Church the 25th of the 4th month.

Mr Burton disabled from preaching.

The Lord having laide his hand on our beloved bro: Burton, so that he is utterly disabled from the work of his place; we having endeavoured to seek the Lord to direct us to such an one as may be faithfull; do also, according to the proposalls agreed of, desired advice of the pastors, and brethren of your Congregations we are engaged in agreement with; and therefore do appoint that letters should be sent to our friends to meet with us the next week viz[t] to Mr Simms, Mr Wheeler, Mr Gibbs, to advise with them about the same.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 6th month.

his death.

Whereas the Lord hath taken to himself our beloved bro: Burton, we are agreed to set apart the 17th of the next month; to seek to the Lord for direction in our advising, and considering of a Pastor, or Teacher suitable for us, and that our friends be very earnest with the rest of our brethren and sisters to give their assistance in this work according to our duty.
We desire our bro: Harrington; bro: Coventon, bro: Joh: Simms to take care to inform themselves of a convenient place for our meeting to be found as they can (we being now debarred of our former place) and report it to the Church.

Church Deprived of Meetinghouse

At a meeting of the Church the 4th of the 8th month: It was agreed, that the 15th day of the 8th month should be set apart to seek the Lord by prayer.

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 8th month.

neighbouring ministers consulted about the case of Pastor

It having been the agreement of the Churches together that if the Lord should remove any Pastors or teachers from any of us that we should advise with our brethren in the other Congregations with respect to our future state; We are agreed that letters be sent to our bro: Wheeler, bro: Simms, and bro: Gibbs, to meet with our brother Olton, bro: Crow; bro: Whitbread to be there on

Harrington: bro: Ffoxe the 3th day of the next month; those brethren being deputed by the Church to conferre with them, about our affaires in yt matter.

We are agreed to set apart ye 12th of ye next month to seeke the Lord in ye behalfe of ye congregation, that God would direct, and keepe us in fury a time as this; as also for all the churches of God, and for ye nation, that he would direct our governors in their meeting together.

For as much as some of our brethren, and sisters have neglected to come to our Church meetings and their withdrawing giveth very ill example to others: we are agreed to desire our bro: Elston bro: Crow: bro: Whitman, and bro: Harrington, to take some time speedily to speake to them concerning their withdrawing from us, and to mind them of their duty.

xx-MB about this time there were many attempts to accommodate the feuds & allay the heats that subsisted & increased between the Conformists & Nonconformists

At a meeting of ye Church the latter part of ye 9th month.

We having according to our agreement last Church meeting sent to our brethren aforementioned to meet and advise with us about ye choyce of a Pastor: and before ye meeting a considerable company of the brethren of our society met together, and upon debate thought to make choyce of Mr Wheeler; and when our said brethren were come we imparted our thoughts to them and to our bro: Wheeler, whose answer was; that he would consider the thing and seek the Lord if he might see his hand leading him to us: and also that it might be mentioned to that congregation whereto he is a member: and to that end we have wrote a letter to Mr Gibbs Teacher of that congregation: those things were at this meeting declared to ye Congregation who were all fully satisfyed with the proceedings; and desired that a further progresse might be made in the matter, and that every one in private should seek the Lord to incline their hearts to come to us, and close in with our desire.

It is agreed that bro: Whitbread be desired to speake a word to us the next Church meeting. And ye 2d day of the week next be set apart to seek God, in prayer.

Mr Wheeler invited to be Pastor here but [illegible] accepted the invitation see next page

At a meeting of ye Church the latter part of ye 10th month.

Whereas some of our brethren and sisters have absented themselves, and our visiting of them by certain of our members hath for some time been layde by; we desire our sister Cooper, and sister Bishop to speake with sister Wheeler, and sister Mowrer fully about their withdrawing, and to give an account to ye Church of the frame of their spirits.

Our sister Warner being in affliction by the losse of her husband, and straights also as to her outward state, we desire bro: Joh: Ffoxe, and bro Harrington to go visit her, and give an account to ye Church of her condition.

We are agreed to set apart next 2d day of the week to seek the Lord, by prayer.

We desire bro Sam: Ffoxe to speake a word to us next Church meeting.

We desire bro: Nelson and bro: Crow to speake to bro Dix about the matters afore mentioned.

1661.

Our *meetings having been for some time neglected, through the increase of troubles the 28th of the 6th m: 1661 the Church through mercy againe met; agreed,

*viz: of thirds

That whereas certaine of our friends have not onely withdrawn themselves but also otherwise failed, some of our friends be sent to admonish them of the same. viz:

Our bro: Samuell Ffoxe to sister Mowrk of Oxly. and sister Phebe Gibbs.
Our bro: Bunyan to bro: Robert Nelson. and sister Manly.
Our bro: Joh: Ffoxe to sister Deane. Our bro: Harrington to sister Wheeler.
And bro: Coventon to bro: Dix.

the Church seeking both corporall mercies, and in Robert Nelson in sickness

We are agreed that bro Samuell Ffoxe do go from the Church to visit sister Hawkins and bro: Man his family being sick: and that bro: Joh: Ffoxe do visit sister Cooper of Cardington and sister Coventon.

Also that a letter be sent to Mr John Simpson in the behalfe of our sister Hoop; that she being now at London may breake bread with his Congregation. His Dr Simpson is the probably the person referred to in Dr Cal. Y. 2. B3.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford ye 26th of the 7th month.

There was received into fellowship with this congregation Thomas Cooper, John Cooke, and Richard Deane.

The next 6th day of the week was appointed to be spent in prayer.

We desire bro Bunyan and bro: Joh: Ffoxe to go againe to sister Mowrk. And that bro: Harrington do visit bro: Wallis being sick: and bro: Joh: Ffoxe sister Cole.

At a meeting of ye Church ye latter part of the 8th month.

Our bro John Cooke and Richard Deane were admitted to have communion with us

We are agreed that next 2d day of the week come fortnight be set apart to seek God. Whereas at ye appointment of ye Church some of our brethren have been with bro: Nolson to admonish him of his disorder and absence from us; who having made returne of yr performance, and sundry heads, informe us that he remained insensible of his miscarriage, and disliketh to heare admonition as much as he can instead of regarding the same; it is desired that our bro: Whiteman, and bro: Harrington do wth our bro: Samuell Fownes together, repaire to our aforesaide bro: Nolson, and in the name of the Church acquaint him with their sense of his disorder; and as much as in them lyeth indeavour his sense, and reformation of his miscarriages; and al ye next Church-meeting wherin it desired may be generall; they make report of their success, and give a relation of their whole proceeding.

It is also agreed, and desired that the severall members of the Church be all visited betwixt this, and the next Church meeting: and yat the members intrusted with that worke and duty be all present at ye next meeting, and give an account of their performance therein. Whereas the members in Cambridge at Bedford it appointed bro Joh: Fownes; and bro Cricket, and bro: Harrington, and bro: Samuell Fownes: for Cardington bro Whiteman, and bro: Whitbread. for Kempston bro: William Wallis, and bro: English: for Oxly, and Pavenham bro: Kime. for Wilshamstead, Houghton, and Haines bro: Hodins, and br: Man. for Elmstow bro: Lofthouse. Those dispersed members may as they shall see occasion from wth they heare or observe deale severally with them that they befall; and desire their generall appearance if it may be at the next Church-meeting.

{1662.} Neighbouring Ministers desired to preach here occasionally.

At ye meeting of the Church the 15th of the second month. 1662.
It is agreed that bro Donne, bro: Wheeler, bro: Gibbs, and bro: Holcraft be desired to spend their paines with us once in three weeks by turnes; Mr Donne 5th day of the 3d month: bro: Wheeler that day 7 weeks: bro Holcroft, the 2d first day after. and Mr Gibbs the 3d day after.

Quest whether the Pastor of one Church may dem the Act to another

Also that it be enquired of the Pastors in London, whether the pastor of one Congregation, to administer the ordinance of the Supper to another Congregation; and on what Scripture grounds, they do it or refuse.

About this time the persecution raged very fiercely, which doubtless interrupted the Church-meetings.

{1663.}

At a meeting of the Church in Bedford the beginning of the 10th month. 63.
The former intention, and desire of the Church that Mr Wheeler should minister unto them in the office of a Pastor, or Elder, not being prosecuted; by reason partly of the unwillingness of the Congregation wherof he was a member to give him up to us, and also his owne unwillingness upon that account; and partly because the Church here afterward thought it not convenient to presse it, least it might indeed procure a disadvantage to the brethren aforesaide: the Church (now standing their solemn performance now come upon them having kept many days in prayer with fasting, to seek a right way of the Lord in this matter; did joyfully make choyce of bro: Samuell Fownes (now lately delivered out of prison) and bro Joh: Whiteman for their pastors, and Elders to minister the word and ordinances of Jesus Christ to them; and they at this meeting did solemnely before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angells, give up themselves to serve, feed, and watch over this congregation, for Jesus sake according to the charge layde upon them; and accepted by them according to the measure of Grace received.

church in Exeter notwithstanding violent persecution

At a meeting of the Church the latter part of the 10th month. Bedford.
There was received into fellowship with this congregation our Elder Barker of Kempston

At a meeting of ye Church at Eaton the 22th of the 11th month.
God appearing in his glory to build up his Zion, there was with joy received into full

followship with this congregation. Jonas Whittimore. Henery Wards. Elizabeth Mapes, ffister Yorke. and Joane Layton.

At the meeting of the Query at Bedford ye 28th of the 11th month.
There was received into followship with us, Eleazar Hawkins, and Mary Hoskt.

At a meeting of the Church at Hanot the 26th of the 12 month.
The Query received to walke in followship with them; fister Whittamore: Mary Yorke; bro: Hoop; and Oliver Thody.
At another Query meeting at Hanot, were received to walke in followship with the Congregation: bro Warren. and fister Warren: fister Coo, and fister Randall.

Fifteen Members added in three Months Space, a time of Violent Persecution

Soon after this Church-meeting all Conventicles (ie, assemblies not under the regulations of the canons of the church of England) were forbid by act of Parliament, no wonder then we find no account of another for the space of four years & half

At a meeting of the Church at Hanot the 9th of the 7th mo month. 68.
We then received fister Peake, and fister Yalls of Cophill to walke in followship with us. {1668}

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford ye 25th of the 7th month.
There was received with gladnes into communion with the Church Thomas Spenlowe, and Edward Isaack, and his wife.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford ye 30th day of the 8th month.
Many of the friends having in the troublous times withdrawne themselves from the walking with the Query, and not being retained by those admonitions, that at time would serve, had been sent to them formerly; some also being guilty of more grosse miscarriages; the Congregation having kept certain dayes with fasting, and prayer bewailed their fall, did now agree in a following way to renew their admonitions. And did agree,
That bro: Joh: ffoxe, and bro: Joh: ffoxe and bro: Bunyan should speake with bro: Robert Nelson, and admonish him for his withdrawing from the Church, and other miscarriages.
And that bro: Samuell ffoxe, and bro: John Croker, go to our bro: Richard Doane, to admonish him, and rebuke him, for his withdrawing from the assemblyes of the Saints, and to inquire into ye truth of those fraudalous reports, that we heare concerning him. The Church doe dealing with Richard Doane.
It was also agreed upon by the Church that bro: Samuell ffoxe, and bro: William Man go to our sister Warner, to admonish her concerning her withdrawing from the Church, and to make diligent inquiry whether those fraudalous reports of her, be true, that we heard. The Church doe dealing with sister Warner not.
The same brethren also were sent to sister Manly, to see what place former reproofe hath taken upon her for her withdrawing; and further to deale with her as ought shall require.
It was desired also that bro: Bunyan, and bro: Harrington send for bro: Morrell, and admonish him concerning his withdrawing from the Query, and his conformity to ye worlds way of worship. The Church doe dealing with bro: Morrell.
And bro: Bunyan, and bro Cooper were appointed to go to bro: Cowdron, to admonish him, and endeavour his conviction for his fall in withdrawing from the Church assemblys. The Church doe dealing with bro: Cowdron.
Also bro: Will: Man, and bro: Paule Hobbins were appointed to speake with bro: Grave concerning his withdrawing from the followship of the Saints. The heat of persecution deters several from attending Church meetings. —

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 14th of ye 3d month. 69.
There was received into communion with this Congregation bro: John Wileman, and Nehemiah Cox. & John Spencer was desired to waite a while longer. {1669}

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 20th day of ye 6th month.
It was proposed to the Church to consider of some others to be chosen to the office of deacons

deavours for tryall, the works lying too hard on bro: John: Storms.

It was farther agreed upon by the Church that br George Holton should be again admonished either by word of mouth or by letter, as soone as possible may be; for his inhumane carriage towards his wife and Children; and other evills wch he stands guilty of.

There was also an account given of the carriages of severall brethren under admonition by vs sent to you: as namely bro: Coventon, Richard Deane, Humphrey Morrill Robert Nelson.

2 Deacons divested after having obtained this office & 12 yeares. Pig.

The Church also having taken notice of the utter neglect of bro Coventon, and bro: Wallis in ye discharging of ye office of a deacon, wherunto they had formerly been appointed; did judge you unworthy of that honourable imployment, and divested you of all authority and trust of that nature committed to you formerly.

These things were proposed to our brethren, and fitters at hand, at our meeting upon the last day of this month, and were fully consulted by you.

It was also farther agreed that some brethren should be sent to certify bro: Coventon, and bro: Wallis, what the Church hath done concerning you: and that they, and bro: Nelson, and br: Deane, and bro Morrill be required to come before ye Church, at ye next meeting at Bedford, to give an account of their carriages towards God, and ye Church.

And that there should be a generall church meeting at Bedford the 14th day of the 4th m:

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 14th of the 4th month.

William Man, and John Croker, gave an account to the Church of their visiting, and requiring Humphrey Morrill Richard Deane, and Edward Coventon to come to this church meeting: whose carriage was as followeth.

As for bro: Morrill though their words, and carriage were so winning, and full of bowels, that he could not well break out into that insolency, as he had sometime done; yet after some windings he began in an obscure way to charge the Church, w^th rebellion, and also w^th taking some portions of scripture, that made for their purpose, and refusing the other: Edw with things though he was fully answered; yet to their last entreating of him to come before the Church, he peremptorily w^th great confidence replyed that he knew them well enough already, and would have no more to do w^th them; bidding them do their worst, saying their faire speeches should not flatter him or:

At their first speaking w^th Richard Deane, he seemed forward, and willing to come till his former offences were layd before him, and he certified that he very did look for good evidence of his repentance for you: and then he brake out into high language, but they told him that would not satisfy the Church nor you: their desire was to see him bring forth fruits to repentance; and then he seemed again to be yielding, and promised conditionally to be here, but came not; These things considered the Church thought good to send bro: John Bunyan, and bro: Joh: Whitman unto more to admonish you.

Brother Coventon

They went also to bro: Coventon who still refuseth to renew and maintain his communion with the Church, contrary to solemne covenant: neither came he before ye Church.

They found not Robert Wallis at home: nor Robert Nelson: therefore bro: Bunyan, and bro: Joh: Storms, were again appointed to admonish him. And bro: Croker, and bro: Thomas Cooper were appointed to goe to Robert Wallis and bro Coventon, to let you know that the church hath withdrawne from them that power wch formerly they had of exercising the office of a deacon.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford ye 14th day of the 5th month.

The Church having sought God by many prayer and fasting to direct you in reviving some to the office of deacons: did now w^th joynt consent conclude, that bro: William Man and bro Croker, should by way of tryall exercise the office of a deacon: and they accepted of it, and did before God, and the elect angells give up themselves to serve Christ, and his Church in that worke.

1: Wm Man & bro Croker added to office

Our brethren appointed to goe to bro Coventon related that they had done their message to him gave you no answer: but that bro: Wallis did very Christianly receive them, acknowledging his owne guilt; and sin in w^thdrawing, & promiseing in the strength of Christ to indeavour reformation for time to come; who also was at this meeting and gave consent to y^e reviving our brethren aforesaide. At w^ch our hearts were glad

Also it was farther agreed upon, that bro: Brooden should visit bro: Bowaton, and bro: Nelson. and that bro: John Whitoman should go to Richard Deane.

At a meeting of the Church at Eaton the 25th of the 8th month.
There was added to the Congregation bro: John Spencer: sister Reads, and sister Hill.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 16th of the 9th month.
The brethren that were appointed to visit those under admonition, did relate their carriage as followeth.
Brother Coventon is through mercy hopefully recovering from his backsliding.
Richard Deane did acknowledge himself not faithfull as yet: but desired the prayers, and pa- R Coventn
tience of the Church. Bro: Nelson could not be spoken with.
It was also agreed that bro: Bunyan, and bro: Brooden should goto Humphrey Morrill: And bro: Bunyan, and bro Whitman, to Richard Deane. And bro: Brooden and bro: John Fownes to Robert Nelson.
And that the 26th of this month should be kept in prayer & fasting.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 14th of the 10th month.
It was agreed that Humphrey Morrill (still refusing admonition) should the next Church meeting (viz: 16 appointed to be the one and twentieth day of this month) be cut off from this Congregation of God, if repentance prevent not. Lev
It was agreed that an admonition should be prepared to be put to bro: William Whitbread, for withdrawing from the Church, and ordinances of God. Lev
It was agreed also that bro: Bunyan, and bro: Man should reason with Mr Sowster, about his desire of breaking bread with this Congregation, without setting down as a member with us. And that sister Wilson, and sister Coventon should go to sister Abbit, to admonish her, about her withdrawing from the Congregation. The Church's dealing with sister Abbis.
Also that bro: Sam: Fownes, and bro: Bunyan should discourse with sister Landy, about her scruples that lye upon her conscience, about breaking bread with the Congregation.
It was also agreed that bro: Will: Man, and bro: Joh: Fownes should go again to Robert Nelson, still remaining impenitent, and renew admonition to him.
The Congregation also having taken into consideration the desire of Gamlingay friends to joyne with us, did agree that next meeting they should come over, and give in their experience.

At a full assembly of this Congregation the 21th day of the 10th month. Lev

Humphrey Morrill was cut off from, and cast out of this Church of Christ. for,
1 Breaking Covenant with God, and fellowship with this Congregation.
2 for an open reviling his profession at a generall quarter sessions.
3 And reporting, and trampling upon the admonitions, and intreaties, and all indeavours of the Church to recover him to amendment of life: disdainefully returning for their pains, and indeavours to reclaime him, foul ungodly railings as those; That they had their hands in the blood of the King: That they were disobedient to government: And that they were not a church; despising also the Gifts of, and doctrines of God in the Congregation: together with severall other false, and horrid accusations.

Confirmed by those brethren.
Joh: Croker — Joh: Bunyan.
Tho: Cooper. — Will: Man.
Sam: Fownes. — Joh: Whiteman
Will: Brooden.

Received in at the same time those brethren by name,

Oliver Scott. — Luke Aylwood.
William Scott. — Nicolas Malings
Edward Dent. — Samuell Smith.
John Thornely. — James Giddins
Ralph Underhand.

The

The Church dealing with bro: Whitbread.

The admonition also drawne up to be sent to bro Whitbread was read to the Church, and approoved by them; and ordered to be sent by Will: Man, and Jos: Croker: The admonition was as followeth.

Brother Whitbread.

Considering how you stand related to us in the order, and fellowship of the Gospel; also your long standing, light, professed principles; together with w^ch you did solemnly protest, before God and this Congregation, when you gave your self to the Lord, and to us by the will of God; and now would also consider how that for yeares you have walked contrary to your relation; and professed subjection to the rules and order, whereby the Church in generall, and the members in particular, are obliged and bound; and being sensible also how by the word of the everlasting testament, we are bound to watch over, and to care one for another; according to our standing and relation to you, we cannot but in love faithfulnes to God, to you, and the Congregation of w^ch I am, tell you, we judge you guilty of sin.

1. For your so long forsaking the Assemblys of this Congregation, contrary to those scriptures Exhort one another dayly, while it is called to day. Not forsaking the assembling of your selves together, as the manner of some is: But exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching. Heb: 3. 13. and 10. 25.

2d In your caring off the care, and welfare of the Church in Generall, and of its members in particular (we mean as you stand in your relation as a member) contrary to those scriptures. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: In honor preferring one another. Not slothfull in business, fervent in spirit serving the Lord. That love should be in fellowship in the body, but that the members should have the same care one of another For brethren you have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty, as an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. Rom: 12. 10, 16. 1 Cor. 12. 25. Jam: 5. 13. See also 1 Tim: 5. 11. 1 Pet: 5. 5. Jude 19–22.

3dly. In your so long neglecting, to be constionably found in the godly practise of the Lords Supper; contrarying wch, had you been under, had not the table of the Lord been too mean in your thoughts, how could you for yeares have absented your self? And if by that bread, and that cup we show to our selves, and say other the Lords death; we had seen it by that but seldome, had we therein taken you for example And considering that appointment is sure, as it is oft to be put into practise, and that for the sake of our sake, both as to our remembering the Lord, and discerning of his body and blood, we cannot but judge you guilty, not only of the neglect of duty; but of debarring your brethren (w^ch you could) of those helps wch might have furthered their faith and comfort, that you showed to us (by partaking your self) the Lords death till he come.

4thly You have neglected fasting, and prayer with the Church, in their humbling yourselves together under y^e mighty hand of God, and that for too many yeares; Contrary to those scriptures. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the Elders and all the inhabitants of the Land (marke) into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord. And again Blow the trumpet in Zion; Sanctify a fast, Call a solemn assembly, Gather the people, Sanctify the Congregation; Assemble the Elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; Let the bridegroom go forth out of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet: Let the Priests the ministers of the Lord weep, and say, Spare thy people O Lord. See also Zeph: 2. 2, 3. Mal: 3. 14, 16, 17. Acts 12. 5.

5thly you have not hearkened to admonition from those that have spoken to you to gain you But have, and do still live, in the neglect of those dutyes, and so in the breach of those commandements abovespecified.

1 Contrary to rule; and

2. Contrary to relation.

Wherefore dear bro: those are to admonish you of your faults, and to exhort you to repentance; and to tell you that this Congregation would be glad to see fruits in you worthy of amendment of life, even such as would engage us to as close communion w^th you, as when you was faithfull to the Lord and us.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 4th of the 4th month.

There was received w^th gladness into this Congregation bro: Samuell Honeyman: Jos Honeyman, and Susanna Cooper.

It was also ordered that those who were appointed to admonish those of our brethren and sisters under admonition, should still continue in the same works, and give report to the Church at their next assembly.

The works of repentance goes hopefully on in bro: Cowdon, who now frequents our meetings.

It it ordered that a day for fasting and prayer be kept in Bedford on the 7th day of this month. And that a meeting of the Church be at Gamlingay on the 14th day, and at Bedford against the 25th and at Gamlingay the 31th day of the same.

At a meeting of the Church at Gamel the 14th day of the 11th month.

Those things that were agreed upon at the meeting at Bedford touching y admonition of those under dealing, were laide before our brethren, and sisters here, and approved by them; the carriage and state likewise, of those under admonition was declared to them.

Our sister Warner also, gave the Church satisfaction concerning the falsehood of most of those scandalous reports that were raised of her: humbly acknowledging her great evill, in so long withdrawing from the Church; and her undecent carriage in some other respects; manifesting hearty by repentance, and stedfast resolutions, to beggs of God wisdome to guide her for time to come: And hereupon was heartily received, to hope, and full communion againe, with the Church.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 25th day of y 11th month.

There was received into this Congregation our sister Wheeler of Bedford.

Bro: Joh: Thomas made report to the Church that bro: Nelson did a little fall under the admonition; yet still continues in a great measure sensible of his sinn, and prayers for him. And therefore bro: Samuell Thomas, and bro. William Man are appointed still to admonish him.

Also bro: Samuell Thomas, and bro Bunyan declared that according to the Churches desire they discourst with sister Sandy, and found her willing to receive instruction, and therefore were appointed against by the Church, as occasion should to endeavour her further satisfaction.

Our bro: Bunyan, and bro: Sam: Thomas were ordered to write to y adjacent congregations, to let them understand the Churches proceedings against Humphrey Merrill.

The Congregation also received, and considered, a letter sent by bro: Whitbread; and did determine, that seeing he had made no direct answer to the admonition, nor manifested repentance for the evills he was therein charged with; but did rather retort upon the ministry, and government of y Church | bro: William Man, and bro Samuell Thomas, should against solemn to see what effect the admonition hath had upon him, and to signify to him: that after he hath manifested repentance for those evills, he shall have liberty to propose the grounds of any dissatisfaction on his part to the Church, and they will endeavour the removall of them: As copy of her letter is here under written.

For his Christian friends assembled in a church meeting, these.

Christian friends.

I did not by joyning my self to the Church, intend a restraint upon me, in y exercise of my liberty, and duty, in hearing, and hading converse with other ministers or Christians, that were sound and sober, as I had opportunity: with liberty from the first I endeavoured to stand fast in, notwithstanding any rebukes for the same: My abode, and assemblyes with y Church, I restrained not but according to my duty continued, till I found I was able to contribute little good to y society, partly from my undueptedness, in the prevailing unfriends, and partly from my hesitancy at found practises among us (especially that in appointing members to preach the word) I foresaw, plainely, that my inlet position would tend in discord, and event.

To disemburse my self I never intended, as having been perswaded from scripture grounds, of the conformity of the Congregationall way with that rule, I waited to see if any door might be opened for redresse, by the theyre of a fit Pastor, and the mercy of a spirit of government among us, which since the death of our Pastor, hath been greatly wanting.

I have not been without late thoughts, and self accusings, for suspending my duty in the whole, because of difficulties in some particulars: and had determined with my self, to have recourse to you therein; but am by yours prevented: I believe the whole designe tended to discharge of your duty and love to me, and so take it.

That I am guilty of a neglect of my duty to God, and his people, I must confesse my self, and can adde more aggrevations, (of the same) then you have, or know of grounds the charge me with; and that I am too much unhumbled, and unbroken for the same.

I am

I am likewise dissatisfyed in some particulars of practise among you; my declaration of the grounds thereof would (I feare) occasion of occasioning an alteration thereof, rather terminate in a breach, or further dissatisfaction, as the most Holy ghost effect.

I have freedome to affirm in you in church meetings; and shall, as God shall strengthen join with, and assist you therein. In any things that shall offer themselves wherein I am doubtfull, I shall be modest in my affirmations, and dissent from you, which I desire you to allow me freedome in. The God of peace multiply his blessings, and peace upon you always by all meanes. Thus fear my desire of

your unworthy friend and brother in ye Gospell.
Wm: Whitbread.

If you allow me the freedome, and practise last mentioned, a verball signification thereof is herby desired.

It was also ordered that there should be a Church meeting the 8th day of ye 12th month at Hanot, and one at Bedford the 9th day.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 9th day of ye 12th month.
There was received into fellowship with ye Congregation our sister Anne Rush.
Also John Storms was appointed to go with Bro: Bunyan to admonish Richard Deane.
Sam: Storms & Will: Man declared also to ye congregation, that going downe your message to Bro: Whitbread, they did not finde him touched with remorse for his sinfull in those particulars that were charged upon him in the admonition: but did also know if ye Church did not looke upon his letter as an answer to ye admonition. They told him that could no wayes be answered but by manifesting further repentance of which was ye Church with that letter satisfyed. Those things being considered the Church did determine to send by ye hand of ye same brethren, this message following.

Bro: Whitbread:
We the Congregation of Christ, among whom you yet remaine a member, have by the report to you, considered your answer to those our messengers we sent to inquire what effect our late admonition had had upon your heart. And finding by their returne, that you are not yet sensible of your sin; We cannot but tell you (as we also desired them to do) that your practise is not to be disputed, whether it be sinfull or no; you having so manifestly transgressed in the particulars charged upon you, by the admonition we sent you before. Neither can we admit you to doubtfull disputation, until you have manifested repentance for your miscarriage: knowing that (under) you may thinke of the word) no reason can be rendred by you as a ground to justify so manifest transgressions. Not but that in due time, and place, we shall willingly give you a hearing in (w) you shall offer to us; and we hope, shall after a godly sort consider your arguments, and make you reply either by way of refutation, or an humble submission, to the truth of your reasons. But your obedience must first be fulfilled, by bringing forth fruites meet for repentance; for it sounds unreasonable to us to admit, that (where) there yet remains a question, (wch) ye word of God doth so manifestly condemn as it doth, your forsaking the assemblyes of the Congregation; your raising off the care of the Church in generall; and of its members in particular; also your neglect of ye Lords table and of fasting, and prayer with the Church, and that for so long a time as above ye space of seven yeares.

1670

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford ye 14th day of the 1st month. 70.
There was received into fellowship with this congregation our sister Mary Olave.
Also our sister Cooper, and sister Woodard, were appointed to admonish sister Abbit
It was reported also by bro: Sam Storms, and bro: Man to the Congregation, that bro: Nelson did forsake full under their admonition, and so far as could be discerned, did heartily desire ye prayers, and patience of the Church.
It was also agreed upon that a letter should be written to ye Congregation at Cambridge (and Ware) dealing (wth) bro: Wade.
Our bro: Whitbread having sent a 2d letter to ye Congregation, and they having this meeting soberly considered of it did agree that what they had declared to be their minde, should be drawne up in writing, and after their full approbation sent to him, which see hereafter; the copy of his letter is as followeth.

To his Christian friends assembled in a Church meeting at Bedford.
Christian friends.
Your letter which I received (if I misunderstand it not) looked (wth) an aspect, as if some

47

something more then ỹ discharge of your duty in admonishing me were intended, for be-
fore you admit me to a resort to, or debate w^th you; I am confined to an acknowledgment
of my guilt in ỹ particulars I am charged with, not admitting allowance to any thing I
have written or may further say; which will evidence it was not neglect onely, but diffati-
tion partly, that caused my retirement. And it seemes to me (if you had granted my af-
firmation thereof in my first not feined, but real) that you have forborne to use me w^th
necessary candour therein: for in no case are mens pleas allowed after their confessions (w^ch is
the surest way of conviction) and yet that onely method is limited me by yourself.
I now freely tell you upon considerate thoughts, I am unwilling to debate w^th you the
grounds of my particular unsatisfyed-nes; with I never intended to insist on, for the justifica-
tion of my absence, having in my first to you, told you, that I have been still in suspending
my duty in the week, for dissatisfaction in some particulars: though from an observation
of your selves, and others, you cannot be unacquainted, that men, and matters may be so cir-
cumstantiated, as the same will committed by several persons may admitt of greater, or dif-
ferent aggravations. I would not be understood to excuse my self from sin; but rather
would add to it.

My forsaking the assemblys of the Congregation was much occasioned, from my mar-
velling, and the strangeness, that was used towards me who was seldome acquainted w^th
either appointment or purpose.
A care of the Church I have not been destitute of, nor have been backward to assist, and
encourage the members, as I had occasion from their need, and desire of my help made known
to me.
I have been doubtfull in my thoughts of the warrantablenes of your practise in the plu-
rality of Pastors, made of members to breake bread. Where of, as likewise of the appoin- 2 Pastors
ted dayes for fasting, and prayer I had no notice given me.
I have not been altogether a stranger to ỹ duty with others sins, nor had w^th you if the
strangeness toward me, had not inclined me to believe my absence was rather desired.
I could instance in some particulars, but they will not acquit me from blame, and guilt
in Gods presence, your judgement, nor my owne conscience. I have sinned heraps of my ab-
sence, I have been faulty when present, and can no ways justify my self in Gods sight:
but am exceedingly more then vile, in all personall, and relationall capacity as, neglected, I
have been found in. I have had, and yet remains under, burthens and troubles, you have
not been acquainted with. I am conscious to my self, of my owne inclinations, and obser-
vable proneness to deserteding: if you observe not in me any expressions of sorrow, as you
see in others acknowledgments, I desire you to believe my experience of deceit in such
things and contentments to avoide such expressions, are the reasons of it. I have been free
in imparting my very thoughts to you: and if there be confidence, and knowledge of any
thing in me, have been unreserved therein. I commit you to ỹ protection of the Almighty.
that you may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ daily, is the desire of,

Your unworthy friend and brother
Wm: Whitbrow.

There was also appointed another Qurry meeting at Gamlingay the 25th
at Gamlingay the 21th of ỹ^s instant. and another

At a meeting of the Qurry at Bedford the 7th day of ỹ 2d month.

Sister Cooper and Sister Woodard related to the Qurry, that they had been w^th Sister Abbit; and
found her (as they thought) sorrow touched with the sense of her sin; receiving their admonition w^th
more meekness then formerly; and thereupon the Qurry did appoint them again to admonish her
the bro: Samuel Fownes declared to the Congregation, that Sister Sandy was more satisfyed in
her confidence, about our Church order then formerly; but did desire a little more time to seek God in
for to her full satisfaction
To Robert Norton was against sent bro: Josh: Fownes, and bro: Croker.
The letter that was drawne up to be sent to Cambridge, was read to, and approoved by the Church:
To ordered bro: Sam: Fownes and bro: Man to carry it: the contents are as followeth.

The congregation of Christ in and about Bedford, to our elect sister in and about
Cambridge wisheth all grace, and truth by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dearely beloved of God, and our Father in Jesus Christ our Lord: the occasion of this our wri-
ting

writing is touching your high dealing with our honoured bro: Waite, who as we are truly informed is put off, and cast out from among you: which weighty act of yours hath put us into a muse, and that upon a double account: first for that notwithstanding our former amity with you (our honoured, and dearely beloved) you have not hitherto given us account of the cause thereof: the which though we cannot demand by any authority over you; you ought for loves sake, and the maintaining of our antient friendship, to have imparted it to us: your being faulty herein, hath (we can truly say) bene one cause of our yet communicating with him. for it seemes unwarrantable to us, to withdraw communion from those (we seeing nothing our selves) of whose evils we have not been informed, and of y^e just proceeding of the Church w^ch them. But secondly we wonder even to astonishment, if you have proceeded according to God, that yet he should be alive, and well, we meane with respect to communion with him: for w^ch we rightly binde by the word on earth is also bound of him God in heaven: for then that is duly cast out by the Church (he remaining still impenitent) hath communion onely with Sathan; the effects of w^ch is so dreadfull and obstinacy, that it is soon of others to their trembling. But he is no withered branch, he is still a fruitfull bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall. We who heare, see and observe him,* see his bow abide in its strength, notwithstanding the arrows have been shot together with others, too large to be here inserted, have made us strongly to doubt, you have not proceeded by the rules of Christ Testament with him: God testifying against your act by causing him to abound in fruits. The budding of Aarons rod should silence him that murmureth: and they that shall continue to object when it bloometh, and yeeldeth almonds, shall have it brought again into the tabernacle, for a token against them as rebells. Consider we say with reverence in the house of God, thus wallowing in his blood, w^ch would a reason rendred us; we cannot follow Joab, but must stand still to behold, and lament it. Wherefore we require you (we would not hinder repentance in any) in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you remove this stumbling block from before us, by sending to us a faithfull account of the cause for which you have cast him out; and let it be done by sufficient witnesse, that may testify the same to his face before us. The w^ch if you yet faile to doe, and shall still continue to take offence at our communion with him; or having done it shall seek to deny us the liberty of our judgment concerning matter of fact; we must tell you we shall count you injurious to Christ, to our honoured bro: and us (w^ch God forbid) and shall take that liberty to judge of both his doings and yours by the word; and as we finde shall denounce our selves toward both, by sitting at a farther distance, or maintaining closer communion with either. A prince, and a great man is fallen in Israell, we must not lightly passe it over. Finally brethren, farewell: The God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that judge of all the earth, do right, and judge, betwixt our brother, and you, and us; by rebuking the guilty, and acquitting the really innocent. Amen.

Written by the appointment, and sent you by the joynt consent
of your elder, and beloved sister, the Church of Christ at above s^d:

*not being armed with prejudice.

Num: 17.

The writing also that was drawne up to be sent to bro: Whitbroad, was read to, and approved by the Church, who ordered that bro: Joh: Ffome, and bro: Crooker should carry it to him; the contents hereunder followeth,

Bro: Whitbroad

We hope we have a due sense of your sorrow, and repentance though it be but in part; the w^ch the good Lord perfect, to his glory, your salvation, and our mutuall comfort by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

But that you have yet seene the evill you have done, by forsaking y^e Congregation, and the worship of God therein; your plea for your practise, and indeavours to mitigate your fault will not suffice us, to beleeve:

believe us in y^e matter and carriage as why it no more

For admit w^t you say for absenting your selfe were a truth; such faults committed by us, will not justify an evill in you brother: but your supposing that (even) your owne, and grosse, were slighted by the Church, and so farre without ground, on our part, that the neglect, and rowsnes we have had for did for too long a time dolores some of y^e principall brethren from a reformation amongst but when we saw our waiting for you was in vain, we resolved in the strength of Jesus to goe on his works without you; the w^ch by his grace we have done, and we hope to a blessed purpose.

Your care of the Church, however it appeared in the sight of God, and our father; yet we for so long a time, have seen no more of the fruites thereof, then if you had not at all stood related to us. when did you inquire after our welfare, as should have become a member? When did you visit the poor, y^e tempted, as beame one that was in y^e body? when did you set to your shoulder to help us at any dead lift we have stuck at? Have you brother looked diligently into the body of the Church least any root of bitternes springing up should have defiled any? All these are the duty of members as members; in every of w^ch you have been utterly faulty we should stand one from another till need were made knowne, and help required, we shall manifest but little love to, and care one for another, and have but course government among us.

to

As to our practise in administering, and receiving the Supper of the Lord, since our beginning
to shake our selves from the dust, we have it only administred by officers among us, solemnly
ly chosen according to the rules of the testament of our Lord, to whom we have submitted our
selves in the Lord, as the word of God commands.

And let it no more be said, by so worthy a person as you bro: that you have not had no-
tice of the theyre of members to meet together among us, nor of dayes of fasting and prayer.
if all the members may stand off from communion, and giving their aide withall the Church
knew them notice; these would neither be meeting to confesse of things, nor hurry to no-
tify to us. Besides, you have bene admonished for your withdrawing before, and did still
abide impenitent; wherefore we were not ingaged, till repentance was manifest in
you for that, to call for your help in other workes.

We know not what you meane by an able pastor; we have such as we hope, the ho-
ly Ghost hath made overseers, and guides among us, to feed us in ye word, and doctrine,
to whom that title of Pastor belongeth, as well as of bishops, and ministers: But if
you suppose that to ye terme pastor, there is intailed authority superiour, to those that
are fellow-helpers as before; we are ignorant of any such office, nor finde it not in the word.
In your charging the Church with want of due candor towards you, as also for rebuking
you heretofore for your communion w^th the prophane, and sober; when you have seen our heart
towards you, and your groundlesse in so saying; we hope you will be as ready to un-
say again, as we are to pitty and forgive you.

Deare bro: we solemnly protest before God, and the elect Angells, that we only seeke your
good in the charge, as also by our tying you to it, knowing we have done but our duty therein,
though it make you shrinke to beare it: Correction is grievous to him that forsaketh the Prov: 15.10
way, and he that hateth reproof shall die. But we beleive better things of you brother, and
things that accompany salvation.

If you yet remaine unsatisfyed in ought, not to take you off from the two songs of your
way, we being loth to number the Church with disputers have deputed bro: John Bunyan, *
and bro Samuell ffenne, and bro: John Whitbread, and bro: Joh: ffenne to reason with you
therein.

Written for you, and sent unto you by the order
and consent of the Congregation.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 25th day of the 2d month. 25 2

The Congregation of the received to walke in fellowship with them our bro: Scarlet of Col-
ne end, and sister Norman, and sister Wiggins of Bedford.

Ye bro: Croker made report to the congregation, that he found bro: Nelson more averse to
morely, being ready to plead for the Church of England &c: whereupon it was agreed, that
for a short time debate should be had, & way further to be done in his case.

bro: Croker, and bro: Joh: ffenne related to the Church, that according to their appointment
they had carried their letter to bro: Whitbread, and finding him not at home, had left
with his wife.

Ye bro: John ffenne verified ye Church, that he and bro: Bunyan, had indeavoured to
make it Richard deane, but he continually indeavouring to avoide their delivering ye
letter by keeping out of ye way, they could by no meanes accomplish it, whereupon they
were desired agreed, shortly to proceed further with him.

bro: Sam: ffenne, and bro: Man also signified to the Church that they had delivered ye
letter appointed to be sent into Cambridgeshire.

The sister also that were appointed to goe admonish sister Abbis, declared that after some
discourse w^th her, she promised them to come before the Church this meeting; but came not,
therefore the Church did agree, farther to consider of her case.

There was likewise appointed a day of fasting, and prayer the 29th of this month.

A Church meeting at Gamlinghay, the 30th of this instant: and at Eaton the 1st day of the
month.

At a meeting of the Church at Eaton, the 1st day of the 3d month.

There was received to walke in fellowship w^th us our bro: Thomas Sanson, and sister Buckle
of Cotton end. And friends here were acquainted w^th ye delivery of ye letters aforesaide,
& ye carriages of those under admonition.

M

A Record of the Acts of the Church

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 5th day of the 2d month.

It was agreed upon that bro: Man and bro: Samuel ffenne should againe admonish Sister Abbis for her withdrawing &c:

The Church appointed bro: Sam: ffenne and bro: Iohn Bunyan further to discourse wth Sister Sandy, and to relate to them in wt frame they finde her.

It was agreed that bro Sam: ffenne, and bro: Croker should go to bro: Whitbread to see wt effect their dealings with him have had.

It was ordered that bro: Man, and bro: John ffenne should once more go to Richard Doane to admonish, and advertise him of their intentions speedily to deale with him, according to Christs Testament; unles his unfeigned repentance prevent it.

It was also agreed upon that bro: Nelson must speedily be dealt wth, and that without any further admonition.

At a meeting of the Church at Eynesb the 23d day of the 4th month. Thos was received into fellowship with us bro: ffisher of Wardenstreet.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 3d day of the 11th month.

The charge drawne up against Richard Doane, and Robert Nelson (the contents wherof see afterwards) was read before the Church again; and some time spent in mourning, and humbling of our selves; upon the account of their miscarriages; in order to their being taken away from among us.

Thos being sent a letter from Cambridgeshire in answer to ours about bro: Wailes business it was at this meeting read to and considered by the Church. The contents were, as followeth.

To the Elders, and brethren of the Church of Christ in Bedford,
Grace be multiplyed.

I salute you in the Lord, at the desire of the brethren here, who received yours; praying that the Lord would put an end to those dayes of hurting, and destroying in his holy mountaine; and fill the earth with the knowledge of his glory, according to his word. As for us if while the world are renowning, and continuing their persecution and spoyle of us, our heavenly ffather see it meet, still to let any of our brethren adde affliction to our bonds, and sufferings; and that for our workes in the house of God; touching which we judge they ought rather to have strengthened our hands in God; we herein submit to the good pleasure of our God. And now passing by some expressions in yours, which we thought needed the seasoning of the salt of the grace of God, touching wch we shall not now contend, nor so much as answer againe; I shall on the behalfe of my brethren give you to understand (wch is in yours it also owned) That you have given us offence by holding communion wth Joh: the person whom in the name of the Lord Iesus we have put away, and wth whom we will not eate: ffor that whilest he was with us called a bro: yea an Elder, he became a railer, and a blasphemer of God; who raised up amongst us strife, and contention: And this have you done both to the strengthening of his hands to a great degree of presumption, and opposition against God, his word, worship, and Church; of wch this partie was so afraide (let he in his confusion may know) that he forsook (the saide) declining neare his friends in Bedfordshire for a time, least wt now God hath inflicted should fall him, least he should be hardened through the deceitfulnes of sin. And now (my brethren) after all this time of breaking vowes, and bonds of love and communion do you make inquiry? Our heavenly ffather forgive you herein, and by his grace humble you. At length the slender reasons, on wch you lay your stresse, whereby you strongly doubt, that you hath erred in the use of the Keyes of the kingdome of heaven; upon wch reasons you have professed to do those things; we desire to see you confirmed them with grounds from

Cor: 5. 11.

the Holy Scriptures: what is there more in your first reason then this, the Church here must needs have erred in their administration, because that hitherto they have not given the brethren with you, an account of the causes of our proceeding; which yet before was not desired. As touching your other reason; forasmuch as it appeared to us to be grounded upon, a sinfull, and dangerous error, touching the Kingdome, and government of the Son of God, wch yet some of late have affected, and defended, viz: That all persons excommunicated, according to the word of God, in that state have communion with Sathan onely. As if the holy ordinance had been ordained for the Godly, the Devills children, and vessells of wrath only, and not for the sheep which is most false: And as if this power had been given for destruction, and not for edification, contrary to the word of God: herein we desire further satisfaction. Now as touching your application of this false principle, to the case mentioned of y^e person put away, whom you in your letters so commend as your honoured brother, a prince, and a great man in Israell; a fruitfull bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall; by whom God hath wrought against our art, by causing him to abound in fruits; which you liken to Aarons rod, that must silence all that murmure, or make objection. Now if this boasting be found false also; as the forementioned principle was; what cause hath Gods Church with you to looke into those things; lest in your epistle ye be found taking the holy name of Jesus Christ in vaine, the Lord will not hold you guiltles. Weal saith the holy Apostle, in the 2^d Epistle to 2 Cor: 7. 14. If I have boasted any thing to him (that is Titus) of you I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting which I made before Titus is found a truth. And if it so here! Doth this person indeed abound in the fruits of the Spirit, in love, meekenes, repentance, &c: this would (I hope) be joyfull newes to us, who would gladly see the fruits of our eyes and travails. But we rather judge those as flatteryes, wherein you have laide a snare for his foot. And should we have saide so much, we should have just cause to have feared our maker would have taken us away for giving flattering titles to man. We being therefore (brethren) neither armed with prejudice, as you say, nor yet partially, we beseech you have not the faith of our Lord Jesus, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. We give you further to understand (brethren) that we are ready to give you, or any of our brethren, that shall enquire a further reason of our admonitions in Gods house, an answer: and that we desire to doe with meekenes, and feare. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. Amen. See an account of this M^r Holcroft

Fran: Holcroft. C[illegible] 12. 86. 13. P 118.

He was at this time in Prison, & had been so a year & more before & after

A letter also drawne up in answer to this was read to the Congregation, who approved it also to be sent, saving that they would the elders should again peruse it, and if all the ground view they like, most to alter any passage, if they see therein according to their discretion.

At a meeting of the Church the 28th of the 11th month.

We long time spent in mourning, and humbling our selves, under a sense of the hand upon two of those in fellowship with us viz: Robert Nelson, & Richard Seamer who have for a long time been given over of God to walke in their owne counsailes, & have been long under the admonition of the Church; but they refusing to heare the Church agreed, the next Church meeting, unles God give them repentance, to cast them off, and cast them out of the Congregation.

It was also agreed upon that bro: Sam: Fenne, and bro. Man, (for if he could not well I should carry the letter) prepared to be sent into Cambridgshire; the copy hereof here followeth.

The Congregation of Christ in and about Bedford, to y^e Congregation of Christ in and about Cambridge, wisheth abundance of grace, and peace by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dearely beloved, we have received your epistle and have read it before y^e congregation, and have with the consent of the Elders, and the Church sent you, in answer to the following lines.

We accept of your proposall you mention at the end of your epistle, namely that you

you, by sufficient witnesse give us to understand, the reasons of your casting our Beloved Br: Wailes from among you: that we also may (not from an implicit faith, but) from a sound judgement of our owne, behave our selves towards him, w^th respect to your ~~censure~~ censure, as becomes a people whose Law is the Scriptures.

As to w^t in your paper, you oppose against our reasons for our maintaining communion w^th him; because you have rather impertinently argued, then plainly answered, we need not returne our selves thereunto: Yet we shall not wholly passe it by.

1. You have boldly injured the nature of our 1^st reason, which treateth not of the matter of fact, but of your unwarrantable dealing with us; in that you have blamed us for holding communion with him, and yet never sent to us one reason to perswade us to withdraw, and separate from him: Indeed Bro: Holcroft hath called him Divell, Rabshake, Troubler of Israell, and the like: but w^t power it hath wrought, or proof of things in particular, to prevaile with us to separate him from us? Whereas this as we said, hath been one reason of our yet communicating with him: And if you will beare us in hand, that the bare words of this brother, are sufficient to command us in the Church; or if in such weighty cases you would have us refuse the use of our owne judgements in the word, and be governed by y^e will, and opinions of others, we answer, we have no such customs, neither the Churches of God. As to the bonds of vowes, and bonds, we give you to understand, we never gave you our hand, in token that with you we would annihilate, without the use of our owne understandings. Bro: Holcroft hath upon this Church, charged an untruth before, in saying we have confessed we have in the ~~truth~~ case in hand, given your congregation offence, when we are conscious to our selves of no such thing; but that the offence hath by you been given to us, by your strange carriages (both to our Bro: and us. You may take, and imagine offences, when the parties you are concerned w^th, stand onely for this that truth might appeare; w^ch in you is neither commendable, nor a proof of your depth of judgement.

For those things we desire satisfaction of our Bro: viz: repentance, and we shall forgive him

2. You abuse also our former reason, insinuating as if we affirmed, that the sentence of excommunication belonged to y^e people only &: (the contrary to w^ch we have always held according to the word of God) which feigned position, and willing mistake is grounded upon the ignorance of the person you employ to write your reasons: by insinuating that because the elect themselves, may for just causes be cast out of the Church, that therefore, although that be orderly done, and they still remaine as impenitent (for that is the bowells of our position) they yet even then have communion with God. Had he said interest in electing love, or a share in the death and blood of the Lamb, (although utterly undiscernable to the person, or Church) we had also consented thereto: but to imagine that the person orderly excommunicate, while he justly stands under the censure, hath yet communion with God, and with Christ (considering that communion, is a mutuall participation together, nay even the elect themselves while impenitent are incapable of) is a opinion not only without, but in flat opposition to the word. Our joy, peace, tryumph, gladness, and sanctification, and more; being the effects of our immediate communion, w^ch are only the priviledges of sons of the saints as in some good measure walke with God. Besides if while the Church shall justly excommunicate me, God receives me into communion with him, w^t is this but to breake his owne order; and to make that ordinance whereby is to humble, and to bring to repentance, for sinne, effect voyde, and of none effect? But to be plaine, if God receive when we cast out; if he blesse while we curse, our curse, and casting forth is doubtles Antichristian.

2 Cor: 13. 14.

Joh: 14. 21. Revel: 3. 19, 20.

What? the person orderly excommunicate is bound in heaven; cast out in the name, and power of the Lord Jesus; is delivered unto Sathan; unto Sathan that he may learne (he refusing to doe it of grace, and his Church) he is also to be accounted of as an heathen man and a publicane, who we know have no communion with God.

Matt: 18. 18. Joh: 20. 23.

1 Cor: 5. 4. 5. Tim: 1. 20.

Mat: 18. 17.

If we say we have fellowship with him, and walke in darkenesse; or if an impenitent person who stands justly excommunicate shall say so (for the Apostle speaks there of the Church, we) he lyes, and doth not the truth. But if we walke in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one w^th another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin. But he that standeth justly excommunicate, is of God delivered to the tormentors untill &:

1 Joh: 1.

But we see the reason of this feigned position, and of your slye insinuating, that a person that stands justly excommunicate, and impenitent hath not communion w^th Sathan only. For had you granted the truth, you had fell under the power of our invincible demonstration, viz: That Bro: Wailes was not orderly cast out from among you, because

boraugh he is green, and flourisheth in the house of God but God forbid that in this we should justify you, or that we should wickedly speake for God. yet we trust our boasting of him shall be found a truth in that day, which all his enemyes shall be found lyars unto. the proof of this our boasting we shall not be ashamed to present before all the Churches of Christ in ye Land. Mr Bunyan & others.

As to ye railing, and blasphemy you charge him wth, boraugh particulars are not specified, we may not from suy generall languages condemne, least with the elders of Jezreell, we be guilty of the blood of an innocent Naboth.

What bro: Holcroft should meane by attempting to stirre up a jealousye in our members against the faithfulnes of our brethren, but an indeavour to breake us in pieces, as hath been ofte attempted in other places, we leave it to the wise to judge. But his attempt we trust is in vaine; he must not be Lord here. Besides the whole congregation is witnes of the power of God with our brother, and of the success of his ministery. Wherefore brethren let no man deceive you, our first reasons stand yet unanswered; wch if the wise shall yet desire, shall be further inlarged before you. Amen.

It was also appointed by the Church that bro: Whitbread be still admonished of his former miscarriages by bro: Sark: Fownes, and bro: Man: and that an admonition be drawne up for them to tarry, after the Churches full approbation thereof; concerning his conformity to ye nationall worship. Wt Whitbread

In the latter part of the yeare 1669 our bro: Harrington being driven from his family, to avoyde being taken with a writ de excommunicato capiendo, and other friends having of long time had their habitation at a distance from us the Congregation did appoint two Elders in their name to write certaine Letters to them for their comfort, and edification; wch two of them (wch were then sent wth the Churches full approbation) being now found to hand, are here (though found out of place) inserted. Mr Harrington & Mrs Elizabeth Baker.

To our bro: Harington was sent this following.

Dearly Beloved bro:

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be with you always, by Jesus Christ our Lord, to ye praise of God the Father, and your everlasting consolation, and increase of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever, and ever. Amen.

Blessed be God, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by him hath called us unto his Kingdome, and glory; to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the Beloved, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace.

With length of dayes is understanding; your long progress in the wayes of God, and our father, hath given you rich experience of that Grace that is, not onely now calls us for us in Christ, but, to be brought unto us when he shall be revealed from heaven wth all his Saints; wherefore bro: make it manifest that you are one of those scribes we read of, that is not onely instructed into, but unto the Kingdome of God. Let it be seen by all your wayes that the feares of God are with you; and that you have in store things new and old in your heart as in Gods treasure house. Gravity becomes the ancients of the house of God: Fathers should be examples unto children. We are comforted in the remembrance of thee bro: while we consider that notwithstanding thy naturall infirmity; yet thou injoyest good conscience, above some mens injoyments: And since thou couldest not wth quiet injoy it at home; thou hast left thy concerns in this world (though in many hazzard, and danger) that thou mayest keep it abroad. But remember that good word of God: No man shall desire thy Land, when thou shalt go up to appeare before the Lord thy God, thrice in ye yeare. Wherefore let neither the remembrance of it thou hast left, nor thought of ill being subject to casualty, either divert thee in thy communion with God, or restrain with thee all good conscience, or unworthy thy gray haires; which are then the glory of old men, when found in the way of righteousness. Exo: 34. 24. Prov: 16. 31.

John saith, I have no greater joy, then to heare that my children walke in truth. Having always a good conscience toward God, and toward man: this is armor of righteousness, both on the right hand, and on the left. 3 Joh: 4.

You bro Harington have lived to see the slippery, and unstable nature, that is in earthly things; wherefore we believe you to report no more therefrom, then the word of God hath promised: wch

2 Cor: 8.15. which was many in little as in many thereof, if not more in many respects. So that gathered much, had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack. While Israell dwelt by the flesh pots in Egypt, they had no manna from heaven; they drank not the water out of the Rock; those things were reserved for their wilderness condition; to suppose them in the waste howling wilderness. We speake this to encourage you, knowing you are subject to temptation w^th us. For we hope it is because God loveth you, that he hath driven you from your intumbrances; that you may have occasion before you dye, therein to follow your selfe w^th your God, and the Lord Jesus Christ: we meane that you may doe it with more leasure, and lesse distraction, then when ye flowing of the open had continuall sound in your eares. Mans life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth: wherefore being denyed a fulnes there is no token of Gods displeasure, against our spirituall welfare; but rather, you always the Contrary. Let not those dispensations then, discourage, or distresse your minds; bless God for the hope that is layde up for you in heaven, whereof you have heard before, in the word of the truth of the Gospell.

God is wise and doth all things for the best, for them that love him. You know not yet but you shall know afterwards, w^t sins, and temptations God hath prevented, by driving you thus from your habitation: and how thereby he made way for the exercise of some graces, that could not so well discover themselves in their vertue, when you was there. How subject we are to dote upon, and to be intangled with the snares, that lye couched, and hid, in the things of this present world, you have had great experience with us. Che: w^ch because God disliketh, it being unseemly for the men of another world; therefore often God plucketh downe, & pulleth up w^t we build, and plant. It was the custome of our fathers, to dwell in tents, & therefore made w^th boughes; for they sought for a city that had foundations, whose maker, and builder is God. When we are desolate, then to trust in God, and make prayers, and supplications to him night and day. God help you therefore, that you spend your warfare (1 Tim: 5. 5. not as they that wept for Tammuz, but as they who plainely confesse to all they are strangers, and pilgrims in the earth. Ezc: 8. 14.

Bro: We write not but by way of exhortation, beseeching you that you call to remembrance your vowes, and teares, when you have been in distresse; and that you would arme your selfe with ye minde you read of Hebr: 12. 2, 3, 4. that you may have your garments always white, and that your head may lack no ointment: you cannot be there where no eyes are upon you; you are a spectakle to God, Angells, and Men; and being called to ye profession of Christianity, and also to the communion of God, and his saints; you can neither stand not fall by your selfe; but the name and cause, and people of God, shall in some sort, stand and fall w^th you. You let us have joy in thee bro: refresh our spirits in the Lord. We have confidence in thee, that thou will be nimm^t, to the adorning of the doctrine of God our saviour. Keep close to ye words of faith, and sound doctrine, wherein thou hast been instructed; and shun profane, and vaine babling; not having to do w^th men of corrupt minds, that thy profession be not counterfeit. Search the word of God with diligence, and pray much for the spirit of ~~revelation~~ wisdome, and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And remember that God hath saide, though there were of you raised to the uttermost part of heaven, yet will ye gather them from thence, and will bring you Neh: 1. 9 unto the place, that ye have chosen to set my name there.

finally bro: farewell. Grace be with thee. Amen.

Written by the appointment of ye Congregation, to whom you stand related in ye faith of the Gospell. and subscribed with their consent by the hands of your brethren.

John. Whiteman. Samuell Fisher.
John Bunyan Joh: Fisher Jr:

To our deare sister Hope.

Dearely beloved sister

Grace be multiplyed unto you, w^th peace from God our father, through our Lord Jesus Christ who is the prince of peace, and grace, and breathed peace; he fill you w^th all joy and peace, in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the holy Ghost.

Beloved sister, we your brethren and sisters, in the fellowship of the Gospell, cannot but rejoyce, and praise God, upon your account, when we remember the unfeigned faith of Love, which is in thee; giving thanks unto ye father, w^ch hath made you meet to be partaker of the inheritance with the saints in light; who hath delivered you from the power of darkenes, and translated you into ye Kingdome of his deare Son; in whom you have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sinnes, according to the

the riches of his grace. Now no more a stranger or forreigner, but a fellow citizen with the Saintes, and of the houshold of God. Thou art called to ye blessed estate of sonships: We are all the children of God by faith in Christ; if children then heires, heires of God, and joynt heires with Christ. Oh what manner of love is this, that we poor vile sinfull creatures, should be called the sonnes, and daughters of God. David reckoned it a great honor, and high degree, to be sonne in Law to ye King. And his heart was wonderfully affected wth Gods goodnes to him, and his house: And David the king came, and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I O Lord God, and wt is my house that thou hast brought me hitherto. 1 Chr. 17. 16. Oh that you might glorify God, and praise him, for his mercy that endureth for ever: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed out of the hands of their enemies. How should praise waite for God in Zion? praise is comely for the upright. Shut with I will bless thee saith David while I live; and lift up my hands unto thee. Oh forget not all Gods benefits; but call to minde Gods goodnes to you; and stirre up your soules to bless, and praise God. Our bowells are refreshed when we consider God hath made you fruitfull in your old age. And though your outward man decayeth yet your inward man is renewed day by day; and your soules kept alive thogh dying times; and is fat and flourishing like a green bay tree in the house of God because you trust in the mercy of God. The more we trust in Gods mercy, the more fruitfull we shall bee. The Lord perfect what is lacking in your faith; that you may go from strength to strength, until you come to be perfect in Glory. God hath promised, that they that waite upon him, and for him, shall renue their strength: faithfull is he, which hath promised who also will doe it. You have had deare sister, long, and large experience of ye faithfulnes of God; and rare, and tender Compassion of the Almighty. Therefor endeavour in all your straights to incourage your self in the Lord your God, and say wth the Psalmist God shall bless us, even our owne God shall bless us. God is greatly delighted in his people when they trust in him, and hope in his word. The Lord takes pleasure in them that feare him, in them that hope in his mercy. Therefore deare sister, hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Consider your neare relation to God by Jesus Christ; and walke in love, as Christ hath loved you, and given himself, an offering to God for you, of a sweet smelling savour. You are not your owne; you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and soule wch are his: growing up in all holynes in the feare of God. So that when you come to dye, you may comfortably looke back, and say, I have fought a good fight; I have kept the faith, I have finished my course, henceforth is laide up for me a crowne of righteousnes, wch the righteous judge shall give me; and not to me only, but to all them that love his appearing, and Kingdome. Now we commend you to God, and ye word of his grace, who is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctifyed. To him be Glory for ever, and ever. Amen.

Written by the appointment of the Congregation, to wch you stand related in the faith of the Gospell, and subscribed wth in ye Consent by the hands of your brethren

Sam: Hemms.
Will: Manton:

To our beloved sister Katharine Hutchinson.

Our dearely beloved sister.

The God and father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of Glory, and the God of all Comfort, bless thee with abundance of Grace, and peace, through the knowledge of God, and our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory evermore. Amen.

It is a comfort to us the Brethren, and sisters (wch whom grace hath made thee a member of the Lord Jesus) when we remember thy first faith, and hope in ye Lord Jesus Christ; being perswaded that thy beginnings shall not end, but in ye kingdome, and glory wch God hath prepared for them that love him. In wch perswasion we are the more confirmed, since we heare (to our inexpressible joy) how our God supporteth thee in all thy temptations, and spiritual desertions, thou meetest with in ye world. The poor and afflicted people God will have to be distressed, and tempted while here, is a manifestation of our predestination, to the sealing and peace of another world. Predestinated to be conformable, or (as in ye old translation) predestinate that we should be like fashioned unto the Image of his Son: A great part of wch Rom: 8

which hath, in our being distressed, tempted, afflicted as he. And therefore it is when he was departing home to the father, that he as it were looked back, as over his shoulder to Luk: saying, You are they that have continued w^th^ me in my temptations, unto you I appoint a kingdome, as my father hath appointed unto mee.

Sister, thy keeping low, and being emptied from vessell to vessell, is that thou mightst be kept sweet, and more cleane in thy soule, then thou wouldst or couldst otherwise be. The first wayes of david were his best; and yet those wayes were most accompanyed w^th^ affliction.

Job: 24: 7, 8. They that are naked, and lodge w^th^out clothing, that have no covering in the cold, and are wet w^th^ the showres of the mountaines; those imbrace the Rock for want of a shelter. As outward distresse make us prize outward blessings; so temptations, and affliction of soule, make us prize Jesus Christ. Deut: 8. He suffereth us to hunger, and to wander in a bowildred condition, that we may taste, and relish, the words of God; and not live by bread alone. Temptation alwayes proboke to spirituall appetite; and are therefore very necessary for us, you us needfull, as worke, and labour to the body, w^th^out which it would be overrun with diseases, and unfit for any imployment. Therefore our beloved sister stirre up the Grace of God that is in thee, and lay hold by faith on eternall life, to the w^ch^ thou art also called, & mount when thou art tempted much; yet the end of that temptation will come; the end, and then effect. And remember that even our dearest Lord could not breake off the temptation in y^e^ middle; But when Sathan had ended all the temptation, then he departed Luk: 4: 13. from him for a season.

That Gospell which thou hast received is no cunningly devised fable, but the very truth, and verity of God, and will undoubtedly bring, to those that believe, Grace and Glory, honor, and immortality; eternall life, and a world to come. This is the true grace of God wherein we stand, and rejoyce in hope of the glory of God. Wherefore be not shaken in mindes, or troubled with unbelief or Atheisme; looke to the promise, looke to Jesus, looke to his blood, and to worth it hath with the justice of God for sinners. The Lord direct thy heart into the love of God, and the patient waiting for Jesus Christ, who at his coming will gather his saints together unto him, even those that have made a covenant with him by Psa: 50. sacrifice.

Lastly Sister farewell, walk and be sober; have patience to the Coming of the Lord; and in the meane while looke to thy lampe: the Lord powre of his golden oyle into it, and also into y^e^ vessell of thy soule; keep thy worke before thee; and be renewed in the Spirit of thy mindes. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall finde so doing. We commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance, among them that are sanctified by faith which is in Jesus Christ, to whom with the father and the holy Ghost, one God, be glory, and dominion now and forever.

Written by the appointment of this congregation, and subscribed by their consent, by your dear bro: who pray for you, and mutual prayers for this dispersed handfull of the Lords heritage.

Joh: Whiteman
Joh: Bunyan
with: Man: &c:

To our deare bro: Jo: Wilson. \ afterwards Pastor at Bishops
Our dearely beloved bro: Wilson.

Grace Mercy, and Peace be with thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Blessed be God, and the father of our Lord Jesus christ, the father of mercy, and the God of all Comfort; for the abundant grace bestowed upon thee bro: and for that thou art so called, so preserved in Christ Jesus; who we trust will preserve thee to his Kingdome, and glory to whom be honor, and power for ever & ever. Amen.

We are comforted in thee, our dearely beloved; when we remember that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures; wch are able to make thee wise unto Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; wch faith was also in thy tender yeares fruitfull, and flourishing in thy gracious heart; to the great comfort of us thy brethren, and the glory of that grace that hath translated us out of the kingdome of Sathan unto the kingdome of Jesus Christ.

It is also joy to us to behold, that notwithstanding thy lot it cast in a place of high transgression; yet thou shewest out of a good conversation, thy works with meekenes of wisdom. God help thee bro: to remember the dayes of thy youth, the first wayes of David were best. There are but few can say as Caleb; As my strength was forty yeares since so it is now &c.

both to go out, and come in before the people of God &c: also saide of Moses; to ye Jos: 14.
day of his death, his naturall force was not abated; neither did his eye waxe dimme:
Brother; be always looking into the perfect Lawe of liberty; and continue therein. Lett us
not: we must give an account of our selves to God. It argueth not onely wisdome,
but great grace; when the soule makes all bye bowed to the word, and Spirit of God:
whom he promoteth, and crowneth that unworthy his affections, that hath not in it a
stayne of the things of Heaven. It is saide of the children, especially the Lord of Israell, Exo: 24.
They saw God, and did eat and drinke, that's the right eating, and drinking indeed. The
glory of young men is their strength to overcome the wicked one. My son (saith Solomon)
if thy heart be wise, my heart shall rejoyce even mine.

Yours bro: God hath not onely counted you worthy to believe in his son, but also to pro-
fesse him before ye world; weare his name in your forehead. They that Christ will owne for
his servants for ever, must say plainely, I love my master: they must declare plainely, they
seek a country. The first note of the perill of the last times is, Men shall be lovers of 2 Tim: 3. 2.
their owne selves, covetous, proud &c: O man of God fly these things; and follow after
righteousnes, Godlines, faith, Love, patience, meeknes: fight the good fight of faith, lay 1 Tim: 6. 11, 12.
hold on eternall life; whereunto thou art also called; and hast professed a good profes-
sion, before many witnesses.

His saide of Hananiah he feared God above many. The continue our joy of thee
bro: our hope of thee is stedfast through grace; trusting in the Lord, that he who hath
begun a good worke in thee, will perfect it untill the day of Jesus Christ. It is a
strange sight to behold those who did feed delicately, to be desolate in the street; and they Lam: 4. 5.
that were brought up in scarlet to imbrace dunghills. We speake not these things to
shame thee, but as our beloved bro: we warne thee. O Timothy keep that which is com-
mitted to thy trust: watch, and be sober. And if thou intende to sleep let that of Delilah
rouze thee, the philistines be upon thee Samson.

Grace be w^th thee. The Lord is at hand. Behold the judge standes at the doore, Amen; even
so come Lord Jesus.

Written by the appointment, and subscribed in ye name, and w^th the consent of
the Congregation, by,

your brethren in the faith, and patience of Christ
who also begge your prayers for this distressed Congre-
gation.

Sam: ffonn Joh: Whitman: Joh: Bunyan.
Joh: ffonn Joh: Croker: Will Man: &c:

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 21^th day of ye 1^st moneth
Our bro: Sam: ffonne, and bro: Man gave the Church account of the delivery of their letter to 1671
the Church in Cambridgeshire at ye Church meeting.
The admonition also appointed to be drawne up to be sent to bro Whitbread; was read to ye
Church; who fully approoving thereof, ordered two brethren before appointed to carry it
to him; the contents are underwritten

Bro Whitbread

We your brethren the Congregation of Christ, to w^th you as yet stand related, having formerly
admonished you by our epistles, for sundrall high miscarriages, and that of long continuance;
had hopes that God might have blessed you w^th unfeigned repentance for the same: But
considering that you have added more wickednes, to your former transgressions so long con-
tinued in; in that now of late you have in ye face of the Canaanites that dwelt in the land, worshipping
profaned your person, at that superstitious, and idolatrous worship, that w^ch feeds, and cruelly in the established
is maintained, in opposition to the true worship, and worshippers of God, to whom long Church
since you have joyned your selfe; we cannot but feare, your former repentance was feigned, and that your condition is worse than before; wherefore we agains by these admonish you, not onely of your former sinfull withdrawing from the Church, and worship of God; but also for your adding this last & above all, as a wickednes that may not be borne with by us, least we also be guilty of your transgressions. And we further tell you, that our uprightnes in this matter may appeare to all the Churches; if you re-

you

repent not, we shall further put forth that power, that is committed to us by Christ for your edification; even to withdraw from you as a person not fit to be accompanyed with; that now you may be ashamed, and saved in y^e day of the Lord Jesus.

Written by the appointment of this Congregation, and by the same ordered to be sent you, by the hand of two brethren. As witness whose names are here underwritten are witnesses.

Joh: Whiteman. Joh: Kenne.
Nath: Cox: Tho: Cooper.

Robert Nelson

Also Robert Nelson, and Rich: Deane, were cut off from, and cast out of this Congregation.

Robert Nelson for,
1. Breaking Covenant with God, and fellowship with this Congregation.
2. Being openly bishopt, after the Antichristian guise of the Church of England.
3. And Contemptuous rejecting of all admonition, and refusing to be reclaimed by the godly indeavours of those, that were by the Church for that end, sent to him; still impenitently persevering in his wickedness

Testified by Joh: Bunyan · Sam: Kenne
Joh: Kenne: Will: Man.

Richard Deane

Rich: Deane; for
1. A wicked withdrawing from the Church, and worship of God in the Quire; contrary to solemn Covenant.
2. A loose and ungodly life, accompanyed with defrauding in his calling, selling to severall persons bookbinders goods; to the great dishonor of God, and scandall of our profession.
3. For speaking contemptuously against the Church; pretending he had something to lay to their charge; yet contrary to Mat: 18th, withdrew, without declaring to the Church beforehand his dissatisfaction; neither could he be brought to give any account there of since.
4. That he went without the consent or knowledge of the Church, in the Churches name particularly naming Joh: Bunyan, and Sam: Kenne, to some good people in St Neots, requesting their benevolence for the supply of his family. Testified by this following letter sent to the Samuel Kenne.

Beloved bro: in Christ

This is to let you know if you are ignorant of it, that Rich: Deane of Bedford was at Noots upon the last first day in their meeting, to crave their liberality of his outward wants, in the name of the Church at Bedford, which he called brethren at every word. I had verily thought he had not been in fellowship with you: But he told me he was one of y^e first admitted (foundation stones so called) and he told them, that it was by the advice of his brethren the Church at Bedford, that he should goe abroad to crave the liberality of y^e Churches, and so he began with them. The chief of which meeting are of a people whom you know. I thought meet to send you word of it: and then not doubting, but if he speaks falsely of you, as I suppose he doth, you know what you have to do. Ralph Luke of Langbury, and Robert Aylwood of Aboley, told me this of him yesterday at Weston. I wish you all well who am a servant to you all in Christ.

Test: Ju: 3^d 69. Joh: Waite.

The two last of these were deliberately, and grossly committed while he was under admonition: neither could he be brought to repentance, by the earnest endeavours of the Church to recover him from y^e devill Snare; but hath obstinately continued in his wickedness; his sometime pretended repentance, evidently appearing to be hypocritical, by the contradictions that fell from him, and his continuance in ungodly courses.

Testified by Sam: Kenne: Joh: Bunyan
Will Man.

Also bro: Whiteman, and bro: Nath: Cox, were appointed to declare to Rich: Deane, the just and fearfull sentence, that in the name, and power of the Lord Jesus had been denounced against him.

As for Rob: Nelson it is to be considered which way notice may be given him thereof also because for the present, he cannot be spoken with.

It was agreed also that an Epistle should be sent to y^e Churches of Christ in and about Keysthorp; Newport-paynell, and Stevinton to acquaint them with the Churches proceedings in the case afore mentioned: the copy of the letter sent to any of them you shall find

Dearely beloved Bro[t]. 7[ber] 19

Grace be with you by Jesus Christ your Lord and ours. Amen.

Blessed be God, and the ffather of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the grace bestowed upon you Brethren, and for the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus, and your love to all the saints, We your brethren the Congregation of Christ in and about Bedford, give you to understand w[ch] troubles have come upon us, by reason of Robert Nelson, and Richard Deane, persons sometimes members of this congregation, but now cut off, and cast out from the Church of God for those wickednesses following.

Things laide to y[e] Charge of Richard Deane

1. ffor that he after a very ungodly manner separated himself from this congregation, and the word, and ordinances of Christ therein. The wickednes of Richard Deane
2. Yp after this lived a loose and ungodly life accompanyed with defrauding in his calling; selling to severall persons deceitfull goodes, to the great scandall of our profession.
3. ffor speaking contemptuously of the Church.
4. Yp went in the name of the Church, and yet wholly without their knowledge or consent to beg the charity of y[e] good people of St Neots; ffor all w[ch] things, and many others he hath been admonished, by the space of foure yeares; yet could not be brought to repentance for the same.

Robt Nelsons practises were as followeth.

1 Yp forsooke the Church with the order of the Gospell therein.
2 In a great assembly of the Church of England, he read openly, and profanely bishop after the Antichristian order of that Congregation; to y[e] great profanation of Gods, order and heart breaking of his Christian brethren. The wickednes of Robert Nelson in being confirmed by a Bishop

ffor those he hath been often admonished, and that for the space of five or seven yeares, but hath contemned, and slighted the same. And besides he hath so trampled upon our holy order, and fellowship, that for the space of eight or nine yeares, he could not be gotten to be present, at any of our Church assemblyes.

Wherefore we warne and beseech you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that as occasion be opportunity offereth it self, you carry it towards them in all things, as becometh a people that keep faithfull with the Lord.

Written by the appointment of the congregation, and on their behalf signed by.

Sam: ffenne. Joh: Whitbread.
John Bunyan. Joh: ffenne.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 26th of the 7[br] month.

The Church considering that Sister Abbit, notwithstanding their former admonitions, did yet remaineth impenitent; did agree that bro: Sam: ffenne and bro: Cox should renew their admonition of her.

The same brethren also were appointed to go to Sister Lundy to reason with her about her continued standing off from those communion with the Church; notwithstanding they had endeavoured her satisfaction in any thing wherein shee was doubtfull; and to certify her that the purpose of the Church is (unlesse speedy repentance prevent) to lay an admonition upon her.

It was agreed also that the same brethren should go to bro: Whitbread, and tell him, that unlesse the Church speedily discerne in him repentance unfeigned, they intend to proceed against him for his miscarriages, by inflicting the censure, that Gods word judgeth him worthy of.

Our bro: William Gawler desire of joyning w[th] the Church was propounded.

At a meeting of the Church at Gamlingay the beginning of the 4th month.

It was agreed upon that before the brethren went to admonish those to whom they were sent; a day should the next weeke be set apart to seek God by prayer w[th] fasting, for his blessing upon their endeavours; and for reconciliation and direction in the management of the weighty affaires of Christs Kingdome. w[ch] was done accordingly by the whole congregation.

Our Sister Linny also having been one of the brethren signified a desire to joyne, and hold communion w[th] M[r] Blakey her son in law, and the people with him: (her habitation being now in London) her motion being by the brethren considered they did agree to send her their mindes in a letter as followeth

Our dearely beloved Sister Linny

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be with you by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I received

first Letter to Sister Silney

I received your letter, and have presented it to the sight of the brethren, who after due consideration of your motion, have joyntly concluded to give you this answer.

That for your selfe (honoured sister) you are of right esteem'd by the Church of God in this place, both because his grace hath been bestowed richly upon you, and because of your fruitfull followship with us. for you have been rightly daughter of Abraham while thus; not being afraide with any amazement: Your holy, and quiet behaviour also, while with reviliings and mockings, and in the gentleness of christ you suffered your selfe to robbed for his sake, hath the more united our affections to you in the bowells of christ Jesus. Yea it hath gotten you reverence also, in the hearts of them that were beholders of your meekness & innocency while you suffered; and a stinging conviction (as we are perswaded) in the consciences of those, that made preyes for themselves. All which will redound to the praise of God our father, and to your comfort, and everlasting consolation by christ, in the day when he shall come to take vengeance for his people, and to be glorified in them that believe. Wherefore we cannot (our honoured sister) but care for your welfare, and increase of all good in the faith, and Kingdome of christ, whose servant you are, and whose name is written in your forehead: and do therefore pray God and our father, that he would direct your way and open a doore in his temple unto you, that you may eat his fat, and be refreshed, & that you may drinke the pure blood of the grape. And be you assured that with all readiness we will help and forward you, what we can therein; for we are not ashamed to own you before all the Churches of christ.

But our dearely beloved, you know that for our safety, and your profit, it is behoofull that we commit you to faith, to be fed, and governed in the word, and doctrine, as we are fully perswaded, shall be able to deliver you up with joy, at the coming of our lord Jesus christ with all his Saints: Otherwise we (that we say not you) shall receive blushing, and shame before him, and you: Yea and you also our honoured sister, may justly regrate the want of love, and a due regard to your eternall condition; if for want of care, and circumspection herein, we should commit you to any, from whom you should receive damage, or by whom you should not be furnished, and fed with the sincere milke of the incorruptible word of God, which is able to save your soules.

Wherefore we may not, neither dare give our consent that you feed, and feed with Jews, whose principles, and practises, in matters of faith and worship, we as yet are strangers to; and have not received commendations concerning, either false works of theirs, or principles from others. your selfe indeed hath declared that you are satisfyed therein: but elect sister, seeing the act of delivering you up, is an act of ours, not yours, it is convenient, yea very expedient, that we also so weighty a matter, be well perswaded before. Wherefore we beseech you, that for the love of our Lord Jesus christ, you give us leave to inform our selves yet better, before we grant your request; and that you also forbeare to sit downe at the table with any, without the consent of your brethren. You were white with obedient, and we trust will not be unruly now.

And for the more quicke expedition of this matter, we will propound before you our farther thoughts.

1. Either we shall consent to your sitting downe with bro: Corkin: bro: Griffith, bro: Palmer, or other who of long continuance in the city have shewed forth their faith, their worthy, & good conversation by the word.

2. Or if you can get a Commendatory Epistle from bro: Owen: bro: Corkin. bro: Palmer, or bro: Griffith, conferring the faith and principles, of the person, and people with you mention, with desire to be guided and governed by; you shall see our readiness in the fears of God, to commit you to the doctrine, and care of that congregation.

Choose you whether of those you will consent unto: and let us heare of your resolution And we beseech you for loves sake, you shew with meekness, your feare and reverence of christs institutions; your love to his Congregation, and regard to your future good.

Finally we commit you to the Lord, and the word of his grace; who is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified. To God only wise, be glory, and power everlasting Amen.

Your affectionate brethren to serve you in the faith & followship of the Gospell.

Sent from Bed: this 6th of the 4th m.

Joh: Bunyan — Sam: Fisher
Joh: Fisher — Nath: Cox &c

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 12th of the 5th month.

There was received to walke in followship with this Congregation our bro: William Dear, our bro: Sam: Fisher and Nath: Cox acquainted the Congregation, that according to their appointment

appointment, they did their message to bro: Whitbroad; who confessed his guilt for the miscarriages charged upon him in the first admonition; they also (according to a former agreement of the Church) did appoint him a day to come &c., and bewaile the scruples of his minde; and at the day appointed he came; and the conference was so managed in love and meekenes, between him & severall brethren; that they had good hopes of the earnestness of repentance in him; and he promised after consideration, to acquaint the Church w^th the further thoughts of his heart.

The same brethren declared also that they went to sister Abbis; whom they found continuing in obstinacy, and so with grief left her, notwithstanding all their reasonings w^th her according to the scriptures, resolving to go on in her unduly miscarriage.

The same brethren also certified the Church, that according to their appointment they reasoned w^th sister Landy, about her standing at a distance from the Congregation, and she seemed to be further convinced of her error; and promised to endeavour a reformation.

At this meeting she received of the Lords supper &c. Congregation but unbeknowne to them.

At a meeting of the Church at Yamlingay the latter part of 3^d 5^th month.

There was received into fellowship with this Congregation four sisters whose names were, Elizabeth Giddins, Mary Stokes, Sarah Cane, Mary Godwin.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 7^th day of the 7^th month.

The desire of sister Joane Berry, and Susan Bromwell, to joyne with us was propounded. The Congregation also considering how the Church in Cambridge gave no answer to their letter; but that Mr Holcroft had also signified that if they sent any more they should not be read to the Church; did appoint the elders and principall brethren to meet together very shortly, to consider what was further to be done in the case: and also to consult about bro: Whitbroads case; and all other weighty affaires of the Church, that might lye before them, and to present their thoughts to y^e Church next meeting; w^ch was desired might be, very speedily.

Our bro: Whitbroad having a note from bro: Sam: Fenne, whereby he did acquaint with the meeting, and desired to fulfill his former promise; either by letter, or appearance, returned this answer

Bro: Fenn

My full purpose of being at the Church meeting this afternoone, was prevented by my being engaged in a long reference, appointed before my receit of yours: from which I could not get respite, though I endeavoured it, and hoped to have disengaged in the forenoone. I pray believe me: I desire a returne to, and amongst you, and am really troubled at this disappointment. Construe not amisse my absence; but give me notice of the next meeting, whither, if God spare life; I shall gladly come. Let not any rumours passe upon me; you have the unfeigned truth.

From

your Christian brother

William Whitbroad.

Upon the 15^th of the 7^th month.

The elders, and brethren being according to the Churches appointment met together to consider of some weighty affaires of the church; did unanimously agree to present to the Congregation at their next meeting these things, as the results of their consultation.

1. That upon our sister Emlyns continued desire of joyning w^th the people aforementioned, not adopting our former propositions; a letter should be sent to her to signify our desire that she would againe consider our first, so honourable propositions, and act accordingly to them.
2. That he Waits be received into fellowship with us, without any further sending to the Church in Cambridgeshire.
3. That bro: Whitbroad come before the Church, to manifest his repentance; in order to his receiving.

4

4. That Sister Sandy, and bro: Coventon come before the Church, to give them evidence of the truth of their repentance.
5. That care be speedily taken, for the orderly sending forth of those brethren, whose gifts the Church thinketh meet to make use of in publick Service.

At a meeting of the Church at Hamed the 17th: and at Gambling bay if 18th of the 7th mon: the things agreed upon by ye brethren, to be propounded to the Church, were approved of by them

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 21th of ye 7th m: There was received into fellowship wth us our Sisters Joane Berry, and Susan Bromwell.
Also ye desire of Walter Glover, to joyne wth us, was propounded.
And the matters before debated, were fully confirmed, owned, and approved by ye whole Church; who ordered that they should be put in practise
It was agreed also that the 2d day of the 8th month be kept, as set apart for prayer, and thanksgiving.
Also a letter drawne up to be sent to Sister Dilney was approved of; the copy hereunder followeth.

found Letter to Sister Dilney

Our honoured, and dearely beloved Sister Dilney. The Lord Jesus Christ be wth thy Spirit. Amen. We your brethren, and Sisters, the Church to which you stand in the Gospell of Christ related, (being knit thereto by your owne voluntary, and professed subjection) do give you to understand, that our care of, and love to you, is the same that it was when you were present with us, and that we shall carry it no otherwise towards you now, then (were you injoyned to see in this affaire as we do) your self could wish or desire. For beloved, and honoured Sister, we know the forwardnes of your Spirit, to do the whole will of God, soon as you shall be taught by that Spirit of wisdome, and revelation, in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Only this we must thinke again; that you are while here in the world, subject to temptation, as well as the rest of the Saints. But beloved Sister; laying aside carnall relation, and partiality for the sake of that; we beseech you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you consider a second time, of what in our first Epistle was propounded to you, it being that wherein, as we did then, and still do judge, consisteth with your safety, and honor in the Gospell of Christ: and that also then, by writing we could no wayes so manifest our love to you, and care for you in the Lord: the brethren there mentioned, being men of such worth, and reverence, among all the Churches of Christ in this Land, as we know not of any the like. And thought we could not so prefer our beloved Sister, as by committing her to the care of some of them; nor so shew our love, and holy respect, to a member with us, as to commend her to seek for approbation of those to whom she should joyne her self: but if our love, and care and respect, had our honoured Sister looked over, (could that due regard to, and reception of) became so humble, and holy a mother in Israell; all while we avoided temptation, and to our Sisters thoughts abused; which the Lord we trust will forgive; and for whom we pray to our God. And now our honoured Sister, we give you to understand, that we dare not, as things stand, start our hairs breadth from what we at first propounded. As for the persons to whom you send us, for information; unless you account the reverend men, forenamed by us; unable to give judgement in the case, we thinke it becomes you rather to accept of our proffer; and not by putting us over to others, to slight, and despise their judgement: We neither refuse the faith, nor principles of the person, and people, with whom you desire to walk: wherefore we

we cannot give our consent to your desires, until we receive commendations
of them; from such whose faith and principles, we have had long, and sufficient
knowledge of
We pray you, for this our care, that you think of us as becometh you (for we seek
not yours but you) and to shew as we trust you will, your subjection to this christian
on, by refraining to sit downe w^th any neer our Knowledge, and approbation. The Lord
deliver you from temptation.

Written for you, by the appointment of the congregation
and in their name subscribed by your brethren.

Sam: Hemes. Joh: Whitman.
Joh: Bunyan. John: Hemes.
Nath: Cox.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 7th of the 8th month.
The Lord added to it's congregation our beloved brother Walter Stover of Goldington.
And the desire of John Clarke, and Samuell Holcroft to joyne w^th us was propounded.
Our sister Landy also made before the Church an hearty acknowledgment of her back-
slidings, and was again received with thanks to God, and our Father into it's bosome
of the congregation. Sis^r Landy
At this meeting likewise our beloved brother Whitbread was received again into
close communion w^th the Church; he making a gracious acknowledgment of his sorrow Bro: Whitbread being Receiv-
and repentance for all those miscarriages of w^ch he had been admonished before ed again
In his giving up of himself to the Church againe, he did also in the most full by the Church
manner, without any reservation, vowed himself, as also his gifts, in the Lord,
to it's service of the Congregation: and did with fervent acknowledge the obedi-
ence that is amongst; and commit himself to their care and government.
It was also concluded that the 29th day of this month being ye 4th day of
the week there should be at hand a generall assembly of this congregation.

At a generall Assembly of the Church at Stanes the 24th of the 8th month.
There was received to walke in fellowship with this congregation our bro:
Joh: Clarke, and Samuell Holcroft, and our sister Chorwood.
The improvement also of the gifts of the Church and their disposall in an
orderly way was proposed to consideration, that God might be sought for
direction therein. And a day time farther to consider & debate thereof,
was appointed viz^t day fortnight in the morning, at Bedford, where the
principall brethren were desired for that end to come together at bro: Joh:
Stones; and a Church meeting was appointed to be there that day weeke.
The Church was also minded to look out and about the corps of bro: Bun- Inventions mde.
yan to the office of an elder, that their way in that respect may be of Bro: Bunyan
cleared up to them. for ye office
The desire of sister Cooper of Clapham, and bro: Fishers wife, to joyne with of an Elder
the congregation, was propounded.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 7th of the 7th month.
There was received into fellowship with this congregation sister Cooper, and
sister Fisher.
The desire of bro: Gamlens wife to joyne w^th us was propounded.
It is desired that a letter of recommendation for our sister Martha Croe be drawn
& to be sent to Mr Palmer the congregation with him.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the last of the 7th mon:
There was received to walke in fellowship with us our sister Gamlen.

The desire also of Mary Allop and bro: Homes maide to walke in followship with us was propounded.

Our bro: Whiteman and bro: Cooper, and bro: Smallwood did acquaint the Congregation that our sister Chamberlaine is now sensible of her sin in withdrawing from them, and desireth pardon, and y^e longing of their love to be signifyed to her, in case the congregation were satisfyed w^th this testimony; she not being able by reason of bodily weakness to repair her self to our meetings: This relation the Church did gladly imbrace; but got upon the account of her former unfaithfulness in y^e things, it was thought meet, to send our bro: Samuell Homes, and bro: Smallwood to visit her and inquire farther into the dealings of God with her in working repentance in her for this miscarriage; and also to succour her as they should see need, and to give the Church a more full account, in order to the satisfying of her desire.

There was appointed another meeting at Bedford the 6th day of the 10th month to pray and refull about concluding y^e affairs before propounded, concerning the gifts of the bro: to be improved, and the hopes of bro: Bunyan to office; and at Gamlingay the 14th day, and at Sands the 20th; and at Bedford the 21st of 8^br and instant; w^ch was desired, might be a generall meeting.

see Lost page near the Bottom

The letter ensuing was approved to be sent, according to our sister Martha Grews desire

Holy and elect sister the Church of christ in London walking with our dearely beloved bro: Anthony Palmer: The Church of Christ in and about Bedford, Comends unto you our dearely beloved sister Martha Grew, since it's found of faith, and of holy conversation; and we your beloved sister, elect together with you, desire you to intreate her to y^e Lords table with you, and to grant her those Gospell privileges, w^ch by the testament of Christ, are bestowed upon you, for her furtherance, and joy of faith viz: to feed her, and walke over her in the Lord, as those that are also fellow-heires w^th us, of the Grace, and Glory of Christ. Farewell.

Written and sent you by the order of this Congregation, at whose request also is subscribed.

your brethren.

Joh: Whiteman. Samuell Hom
Joh: Bunyan. John. Hom
Thomas Cooper. Nehem. Cop.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 6th of the 10th mo.

The Church being fully satisfyed concerning the truly of sister Chamberlaines repentance by the report of the brethren sent to her, did with thankfulness ding to God receive her again into full communion; and did appoint a letter to be written to signify the confirmation of their love to her.

The receiving of sister Chamberlaine.

At this meeting also it was desired that the Church would consider and pray to God about the choosing of bro: Joh: Hemmd to the office of a deacon.

At the for appointed meeting of the Church at Gamlingay the things before mentioned were soberly considered and the Church stirred up, & still to pray about them.

There was also received to walke in fellowship w^th this Congregation our sister Cooke of Maudon.

At a full assembly of the Church at Bedford the 21th of the 10th month.

X Bunyan to office

After much seeking God by prayer, and sober conference formerly had, the Congregation did at this meeting with joynt consent (signifyed by holding up of their hands) call forth and appoint our bro: John Bunyan to the

pastorall office, or eldership; And he accepting thereof gave up himself to serve Christ, and his church in that charge; and received of the Elder the right hand of followship. after having Preached 15 years. Vid. Solemne ordination of other Elders

The same time also, the Congregation having had long experience of the faithfulness of bro: Joh: Harris in his care for the poor, did after the same manner solemnly set him apart by those him to the honourable office of a Deacon, and committed their poor, and care to him; and he accepted thereof, and gave up himself to ye Lord and them in that service. 1 year after his ordination to the office of Deacon

The same time; and after the same manner, the church did solemnly approve of the gifts, and called to the works of the ministry those brethren; Josh Hoome, Oliver Scott, Luke Atwood, Thomas Hooker Edward Doul, Edward Hart, Nehemiah Coes for the furtherance of the works of God, and carrying on Gods worship in the meetings usually maintained by this congregation, as occasion and opportunity shall by providence be ministred to them. Gifts approved & the church

The did further determine, that if any new plant, or another people that we have not full knowledge of, or communion with, shall desire that any of these brethren should come to them, to be helpfull to them by the word, and doctrine, that then any brother so desired, shall first propose the thing to ye Congregation; who after due consideration will determine thereof; and according as they shall determine so shall such brother act, and go. offered for

The Congregation did also determine to keep the 26th of this instant as a day of fasting and prayer, both here, and at Hanes, and at Yanthingbay, solemnly to recommend to the grace of God bro: Bunyan, bro: Hoome, and the rest of the brethren; and to intreat his gracious assistance, and presence with them in their respective works whereunto he hath called them.

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford the 10th day of ye 11th month

There was received to walke in followship with this Congregation our sisters Mary Ufford, and Mary Harrison

The desire of Elizabeth Bisby, Gilbert Ashby and his wife, to walke in followship wth us, was propounded

It was also agreed upon that the 16th of this instant should be set apart for seeking God by prayer with fasting for our children, and carnall relations, and for the town sad and afflicted, and for the Lords blessing upon ministery: and that this be in care of the Congregation viz. at Bedford, and Yanthingbay, & at Hare, not only at the time afore mentioned, but monthly one day in a month observed.

This letter ensuing was approved to be sent to Sister Chamberlaine.

Dearly beloved sister Chamberlaine; The grace of God and our Father be with you alwayes through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Church of Christ to which you dear sister) stand united in the faith and followship of the Gospel, give you to understand, that they love they have duly considered your repentance, & humiliation for your miscarriages, and do comfortably believe that it is repentance upon you of God, repentance not to be repented of; and therefore have without delay agreed to receive you, and salute you as formerly, as though you had not sinned. and we do it with much the more satisfaction, because we hear that ye Lord is gone out before us, himself having pardoned you pardon, through faith in ye blood of his Son, and made you to rejoyce in the pardon of those sins, by which you troubled your brethren. But thanks be to God, and the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercy and the God of all comfort, for healing that which was driven away, and for healing her that halted.

Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be Glory for ever, and ever. Amen.

At a meeting of the Congregation at Hanes there was received into followship wth us sister Carter of Chesyll:

And at a meeting of the congregation at Yanthingbay towards the end of this instant ye 26th day were received Gilbert Ashby and his wife and sister Elizabeth Bisby

52/1672

A Record of the Acts of the Church

At an assembly of the Congregation at Kempston the 22th of the 3d mo: 72
There was received to walke in fellowship with us sister Whitbread of Kempston:
Also the desire of Elizabeth Gale, and Parrat, amaide at Southwell, to Symphra
Thorowgood, sister Kirton of Eworth, and sister Mauric of Olney, to
walke with us was propounded.
It was also agreed that the 5th of the 4th m: be kept as a day of
fasting and prayer upon the account before mentioned.

At an assembly of ye Congregation at Yam: the 7th of ye 4th mo: 72.
There was received into fellowship wth this Congregation, Symphrey Thorow
good of Southill; sister Maurd of Olney, & Mary Kirton of Eworth.

At a generall assembly of the Congregation at Bedford the 25th of
the 4th month.
There was received to walke in fellowship wth this Church sister Parrat of Bassenden
sister Blanchard of Southill and sister Elizabeth Gale.
Also ye desire of sister Holstock to walke in fellowship with us was propounded.
It was also agreed that an admonition be drawne up to be sent to sister Whitbread
after ye Churches approbation thereof at the next meeting.
And Jn Wich appointed that bro: Samuell Fferris, and bro Wch Cox? come more
go to admonish sister Abbit
It was also ordered that a briefe confession of faith be drawne up by the elders
and sisters brethren of ye Congregation, against the next meeting: that after ye
Churches approbation hereof, it may be profounded to all that shall desire to give up
themselves to ye Lord, and to ye walk of ye Gospell, and that unfeigned rowfull teares be regarded
There was also appointed a meeting for prayer for our children and relations by
the 5th day of the 5th month being the 6th day of the week.

At the meeting last appointed the desire of sister Spencer, sister Hadoe, &
sister Clayton, to walke in fellowship with us was propounded
And a quarterly meeting appointed the 16th of this instant; and the continuation of
the forementioned monthly meeting for prayer: monthly Day, and to be next time on the 2d day
of the 6th month.

At a meeting of the Congregation at Bedford the 16th of ye 5th mon: 72.
There was received into fellowship with us our honoured bro: John Waite, sister
Hancock, sister Clayton, sister Hadoe, & sister Holstock.
The desire of Thos Burrow from Wilson of Ellon on, and the Aftwoods wife, to
walke in fellowship with us was propounded.
The brethren that were appointed to go to sister Abbit having given the Church a
relation of her refusing to hear them; they did agree that word should be sent
her by sister Lundy & sister Fenelon that unless shee did manifest repentance &
amendment for miscariage, before their next meeting; they would then proceed
against her according as ye word of God.
This admonition drawne up to be sent to sister Whitbread was read to ye congregation
& approved, and ordered to be sent to her by two of ye brethren;
The admonition is as followeth

sister Whitbread

Wee Elders of Christ to whom you stand related both by word & act of yourself being made
by only profession of ye same Faith, walking from your former professed fellowship to our
Lord & Saviour Christ Jesus his word and Testament,
1 In your taking an affectionate of ye Church contrary to ye word of God Heb: 10, 25 Act: 2 42
2 In your continued neglect of ye Lords Table contrary to ye approved and injoyned
practice of ye primitive Church Act: 2. 42. 1 Cor: 11. 24, 25.
3 In your being headless of the affaires of ye Church, and carelesse of ye good of each mem-
ber in particular, in your stand contrary to 1 Cor: 12. 25, 26.
We hereby admonish you of these your sinnes, whereby God hath been dishonoured, and we
grieved, and shall be called to require unfeigned repentance wrought in you for them,

A Record of ye Acts of ye Church

1672

that our love might againe be confirmed to you as formerly.
Written for you, and sent unto you by ye appointment
of ye Church of Christ to wch you stand related.

At a meeting of ye Church in prayer, at Bed: the 9th of ye 6th month;
The desire of bro: Crokers wife and friend Harris made to joyne in fellowship
with us was propounded.
It was also agreed that the 23d of this instant be kept in prayer and thanksgi-
ving to God for our present liberty &c:

At a meeting of ye Congregation at Bedford ye 29th of ye 6th mo: 1672
There was received into fellowship wth us our sisters Anne Burrows, Mary Crocker, Eliza × bro. Harris
both Edwards, and bro: Wilson wife.
The desire of friend Maurice his sister of Aylwood to walke in fellowship wth us was
propounded;
Our sisters that were appointed to go to sister Abbis, having omitted it; it was agreed
that bro: Sam: Fenne, & bro John Whiteman go to her, according to ye Churches last
appointment; Colwick ye 5, our next meeting.
The matter first of all proponded concerning ye drawing up of a brief Confession
of faith &c; was omitted, by reason of bro: Bunyans absence.
The next Church meeting was appointed at Gamlingay ye 12th of ye 7th mo:

At ye meeting of ye Congregation at Gamlingay the 12th of ye 7th mo:
There was received into fellowship with ye Congregation sister Aylwood of
Gamlingay, & friend Maurice his sister of Aylwood.

At a meeting of the Congregation at Bedford the 25th of the 8th month:
The desire of bro: Chas: Hawkins' mother, & likewise of Henry Aylwood: wid: Dent,
Mary Haggar, & br: Hastings wife, were propounded to walke in fellowship with this
Congregation was propounded.
The a Church meeting was appointed at Gamlingay the 31th of this instant
There were also deputed to go to ye meeting of ye messengers of the adjacent
congregations, that was appointed at Hogsdon ye 26th of this instant The elders, M:
Wells, M: Whitbread, & bro: Man.
Our bro: Sam: Fenne also gave the Congregation an account of sister Abbis ex-
postulations in her contempt of our admonition; & her case was left to be
considered till ye next meeting.

At a meeting of the Congregation at Gamlingay the 31th of [illegible]
There was received to walke in fellowship with the Congregation at this
Sarah Hall, Mary Haggar, sister Dent, & sister Aylwood.
Also the desire of sister Belmont to walke in fellowship wth us was propounded
and was received at the next church-meeting, and so also was Henry Aylwood, Robert Day, Mary
Day, Ann Smith, Mary Fuston, Thomas Hunge.
There was also at the next Church-meeting in that place received into fellowship with us
Stephen Warren. There is also the desire of Mary Foster and Thomas Wilt to walke
in fellowship with this Congregation.
At a meeting of the Congregation in Bedford the 28th of [illegible] was received 1673
into fellowship with the Church our Bro. John Barker of Kimpton.
At a full assembly of the Congregation at Bedford [illegible]
late being Easter day of the year, John Rush, [illegible]
after a very godly and filling manner, that is agreed by the generality voice of the Church
for he could not be carried through the [illegible]
the most of us left it to three persons, who [illegible]
could not prevail with us and a hope to his friends, that we
this assembly of the Church was held the 25 day of the seventh month.

1673 A Record of the acts of the Church.

X At the same meeting there was propounded the desire of those friends to joyne in fellowship with us, Jowitt Thomas Bunyan, Sister Ward

At the same meeting it was desired by the Church at Hitchin that this Congregation would give up to them our Bro Nehemiah Cox vnder to the exercise of the office of an Elder or pastor with them: which the Congregation concluded to take in to consideration.

X At an assembly of the congregation on the 6th of the 4th month was received into fellowship our Bro Thomas Bunyan, and our Sister Wheeler.

Concluded that the 14th day of this month be kept as a day of humiliation and praier upon several manifold accounts.

At an assembly of the congregation held at Gamblingay was received into fellowship with us, our Bro Tho: Wilt and our Sister Upstot the 4th month. and Fra: Gilby.

At an assembly of the Congregation holden at Barford the 17 of the 7 month was received in to fellowship our Sister Honour

At the same time an accusation was brought into the church against our Sister Wilt otherwise vnseen for reviling.

At an assembly of this Congregation at Edworth the 30 of the 8th month was received in to fellowship our Brethren Bullock, and our Sister Senard

at the same meeting it was also concluded that the Sister to Bedgall with should first be heard (because she pretends she can make her defence) at the next Church meeting.

Sister Wilt At a Church meeting at Gamblingay the 18 of the 8th month was cast out of the church the wife of our Bro Wilt, for railling, and other wicked practices.

Concluded that foure dayes be set apart for humiliation with fasting and prayer to god because of some disorders amongst some in the Congregation Specially for that some have run in to debt more then they can satisfie to the great dishonour of god and Scandall of religion.

At a meeting of the Congregation held at Gamblingay the 13 of the 11th month was received into fellowship with us our Bro Jechiman Brother Sutton, Sister Cooper.

1674 A Church meeting was holden at Barford the 10 of the 2d month 74 to pray to god to pitty an action upon foure in the Congregation that had trespassed: at the same meeting was our Sister Elizabeth Bigbie

Sister Bigbie proved to be an inticed liveing in adultery with Edward Wigfall which also lay upon many in the house about them two. At the same meeting also the Church was told that our Sister Sarah Lardy had bin advertised for (will) reviling Communion against, for Communicating with the Church: and for saying the Church will not forgive

Sist Lardy her sinns &c: At the same meeting our Sister Mary Wilson desired to be spoken for to the Congregation, to whom she was reconciled in love: and was received in againe: At the same meeting the Church was told that our Sister Elizabeth Maxey had bin admonished for severall offences to her friends to wit, for calling her

for the Negative may goe sister Maxey fellow sister and for other carriages by her towards

At a Church meeting given at Barford the 17 of the 2d month 74 which was ordained that our Bro: Thurnleys wife desireth to joyne in fellowship with us.

On the 7th of the 3d month was a meeting of the Congregation, holden at Cotton-End which was a relation made of several acts of the Church, there also our Bro: Nehemiah Cox did publickly make an acknowledgment of several miscarriages by him committed and declared his repentance for the same: and because he had sinfully in high things hitherto therefore it was desired by some of the Bre that the forme of his submission should be prepared by us in writing, which accordingly was, and is as followeth. Whereas several words and practises have been vttered and performed by me that might justly be construed to have a tendency to create strife and divisions in the Congregation I do declare my selfe vnfeignedly by reason and sorry for the same. Nehe: Cox.

At the same meeting our Sister Maxey was made free publike

1674
55

acknowledgment of her wicked behaviour towards her pretended to seem good
satisfaction of the Congregation – why was thought good a little longer to defer
receiving of her to full Communion again for further proofe of her
sound repentance. At the same meeting also our sister Landy had
a publick Church admonition: At the same time also singing of Psalmes
was propounded to the Congregation, also that the Congregation at that
time should consent to give up our Bro. Wilson to
the Church to admonish our sister Eliz: Bizbie for her unmeetness and
dilatorinesse.

At a church meeting holden at Gamlingay the 18th of the 3d
month was received into Communion with this Congregation our
sister Thornby; at the same meeting was our sister Landey
with drawn from, the cause was, for that she had withdrawn com-
munion from the Saints; that despised gifts in the Church; that
taught her Children to play at Cards, and remained impenitent
after sundrie admonitions.

At a church meeting holden at Basford the 29th of the 3d mo
there was our sister Eliz: Bizby with drawn from for those miscarriages
above specified also for her impenitent persisting therein; there was
also our sister Eliz Burchwood sharply rebuked for her immodest com-
pany keeping with Carnal and light young fellows at Eglow and
also for that there hath gon of her a common report of infamie
and scandall upon many accounts of which we fear she is too
much guilty, Concluded also that inquiry be made into the truth of
things not yet fully known. Ordered that a letter be sent to that
Church, of which Bro: Joffe now was pastor to know whether it
be their Church principle still to hold communion with Saints at
Saint though differing in Judgment about Walton Baptizm
that we may the better know how to do as to our sister Martha
Cumberland as to her joyning with them or not: at the
same time John Overland was mentioned to be joyned in
fellowship with us, but consideration that upon good accounts his
life & profession was not blameworthy with the Holyness
of heart the gospel it was commended on the negative

1674 Landey withdrawn from

sister Bizbe

sister Burchwood

1675

At a meting of the Church at Gamlinge there was forward in to our
fellowship William Gardiner of gamlingay their sister suitty & prudentia.

At a thurth meting holden at Bedford the 19th of the 8 month 1674
there was forward in to this Congregation Sarah Cowston: Martha
Cowston. Margret whitman. and Elizabeth Bateman of Eglow:

At a meting of the Church in Gamlinge there was forward in to this
congregation sister Cannon Sarah Isaake and William Lake.

At a meting of the thurth at Gamlinge this was forward in to this con-
gregation Edward Barton of Hatle. Edward Browne of Eddington and
Thomas Meade.

At a meting of the Church at Gamlinge there was received in
to this congregation our sister Dorin who lately was in Lordships Attends
hence that meting was a cool ~~day~~ 7 may 1675

8th of the 9th month 1674

9th month 1674

56 At a meting of the Church in Bed ford [1674] was warned in to followshipe with this congregation our sister Watman of Bed ford and sister Sanford of Soken end.

At a meting of the Church in Bedford 26th of 4m 11 month called feb 1674
ther was warned in to followship with this congregation our sister Hadar of
Bedford and our sister Philipps and our sister Johnson of Ponston

At a meting of the Church at Hawnd 9 day of the month called march 1674
ther was warned in to followship with this congregation Brother Longley and
his wife of milsted Cowen end. Sister Batton of milsted Sollon end.
Hotgure meting at Hawnd 4th month of June was warned in to followship sister
At a meting of the Church at Hawnd 4th beginning of the 5th month
1675 was warned in to followship with this congregation sister Prior
Jamb nilson sister [illegible] of Sotonend sister nilson. Elizabety
white man Brother Jamb nilsons wife was warned at another
Church meting at Hawnd 4th wike after

At a Generall church meting at Gamlingay now warned in to followshipe with
this congregation John manton sister Lake sister Sutton
sister Holand worth sister morton sister Issatt of Offord.

At a church meting in Gamlingay 4th 17th December 1675 was warned into
followship with this congregation John Hargat of Bsford.

At a Church meting at Hawnd the 20th of December 1675
was warned in to communyon with ye widow Randall of Hawnd

At a Church meting at Gamlinga 28 Jan 1675 was warned
in to followship with us. sister Manton sister. sister Babs
of Soken Raby. Hannah Browne.

At a meting of the Church at Bed ford Laterend of Biggleswade was
warned in to this congrigation Benjamin goodman sister person
Brother John Judith Myrrill maide Edward Shephard.

At a church meting at Bed ford the 11th of December 1676
ther was 4 women warned in to followship thos & Thomas woodard
John Bedwell William [illegible] water storyes wife of
Hawnman

(1674)

To the church of christ in Bedford where of our Beloued Mr Bunyan was pastor (57)
Samuel Fenn & Doctor
The Church of Christ in London where of of our honored brother Henry Jessey was pastor
Send greeting wishing grace mercy and peace in our lord Jesus Christ.

The occation of this our present writeing unto you is to give you to understand that whereas Martha Everitt a member with you, but for some yeares past Dwelling providence hath removed her habitation to this place where for the most part of this time she hath been destitute of the opportunity of communion with any church, but having continued of her loose thereby hath of late made her application to us; we in tender mercy to you and pity to her thought our selves bound in duty to give you the knowledge of it, that we might not be found misunderstand the estate and capasitie in relation to you do any things that might some way tend to your further humbly intreate you that we might be favored with a speedy and plain answer, desiring nothing more in this but the honor of our Lord, and to light his people Wonder not at a mistake of this and should rejoyce if you would show the same care towards any of ours that might be by providence cast amongst you. whose of whom we have no cause to doubt this sister hath been for some yeares known to some of us, and so far as we can judge her conversation hath been becoming the gospell being exercised with many afflictions both outward and inward under which god hath been pleased to a good gracious support. we shall not further enlarge only pray you may be preserved blameless in the way and work of god filled and enriched with the abundant graces of the holy spirit, waiting for the coming of our deare lord in whom we remayne your Brethren in the faith and fellowship of the gospell

Signed by the appointment
of the Church 12 day of the
3 month 74

Henry Forty
James Fitton
Will Mutlett
Nathaniel Thomas
Tho Flud
Hen Crumpt

(58)

To the Church of christ sometime walking with our Brother Jo[hn] the church of christ (16[7]4
in and about Bedford with[all] grace and peace by Jesus christ our lord.

we received your letter and by it a signification of your readiness to receive our sister
martha Chamberlaine but before we can with full fulness of our desire give
up to you we must take leave to propound to you to desire your faithfull answer
thereto to wit whether that good old principle once professed by you in the time of our
honored brother John that communion church communion of saints notwithstanding
differences in judgment about water baptisme be yet a church principle with you.
we would not have propounded these things unto you had we not fully known our sister
and other sisters ornaments so to do

we have heard to[o] our ears and our eyes beheld with our honored brother Oaken. Brother Palmer or Brother Green but none
of those congregations would confess her the which we have taken very ill especially
since these of our members which are in London are received by and hold communion
with them, they being also of that christian principle afore mentioned to hold communion
with saints of saints. neither should we ever get from sin a reason of his so refusing
but in stead thereof a discovery of a stubborn and selfe willed spirit signifying to us that
if we should not consent to give her up to walk with those whose principles touching
the things in question we know not, she would take her leave to do it, we fearing sin we
refusing to joyne with some one of those congregations is so great a dishonour laid
upon them, not to mention how we go all for by forbearing (although inverted communion with
those of our congregation there and all so that he hath despised the judgment and cause
of the Church in their attempt to dispose of her to their satisfaction and we trust to the
glory of christ that it may not light like to passe over further not withstanding
all his fawning pretending sin some of want of communion and of her great love
thereby, yet when she was call in the Country she did not so much as signifie any
desire of communion with sin her brethren but rather went by us backward and forward
like a stranger, now from what ground those charges should arise we know not unless he
take her possessed with that opinion of giving communion with none of the Saints
but such of them as are kind hearted after personall confession of faith.

further we are ground at least to question whether the principle before propounded
be in deed now a thing principle with you, be ought when a person a christian sister
at her coming out of the Citye after brother Forty, whether he would advise sin to
fall in to communion with our congregation answered no by no means.
because we maintain this principle it is Lawfull by name and use of the same
Which said to brother Bunyan as he gate before us testified. those things being so
should we commend this sister to you we should not only consent with sin to sin withstanding
those charged at London, but countenance all so sin trampling upon us at home
especially sin trampling upon that good and godlie principle stood to and maintained
by us and by you in former days.
We know some of your members are one with us in this matter but we would
know if it be a Church principle and whether your pastors and Elders hold and
maintain it, hoping unto our plainness in this matter we are concerned and that
by other reasons all for them appeared in vented, so we the grace of god by Jesus
Christ be abundantly multiplyed upon you Amen

John Bunyan
John Gower
John Storm
Sam Crotton and yonge
John

progeten for you and sent by the order
of the congregation to you as is testified
by your Brethren

[58]

1675*

At a meeting of the Church at Gamlingay the later end of Aprill
ther was received in to this congregation our Brother George Crossland
of Eyngbery.

At the same Church meting our sister Cooper of Paston was called before
the Church, and admonished concerning her walk in going to hears the
national ministers and through gods mercy received instruction.

1676

At a meeting of the Church the 23 day of the 3 month 1676 ther was received
in to this Congregation our Brother John Crane of Edwarth

At the same meeting sister Susanah Cooper upon her acknowledgment of re
pentance before the Church, for those evills, the making before she was by the brether
admonished of. they being satisfied concerning her repentance, she was
received in to Close Communyon again.

At this meting our sister Sarah came was admonished of some evill she
stood guilty of namely light wanton fond caraged towards young men and
neglect of her Business in her sorte for the which not withstanding Satisfaction
concerning her repentance left her under admonition. waiting for gods bles
sing upon it.

At a Church meting at Bedford the later end of the 10th month 1676 ther was received in to fellowshipe
with this congregation sister Whitbread, wife of John Langston and
Elizabeth Barker. sister Badcon of Elston.

At the same time Brother Samuel Honyman was given up
to the Church of Christ in Brainty.

At a Church meting at Hawnds the 4 day of the 11th month 1676 ther
was then received in to fellowshipe with this Congregation Ambrose Lee
of Maulden William Millard. and his wife of the same
Thomas Hawkins and mary Millard.

At a Church meting at Gamlinggay the 14th of the 11th
month 1676 ther was received in to this congregation our Broth
Holden of Potton

At the same meting Brother Oliver Chodyr made acknowle
ment of some miscarages the church god charged him with
as namely breaking the sabbath, and brawling with his neighbor
and therupon gave satisfaction for his faults the church concluded
to make Inquiry of Christian friends ther about concerning his de
meanor of life

At a meting of the Church for ye 21 of ye 12th month 1676 at 1676
Cotton End ther was wee cauld in to this Congregation

four Brother Jamud Tomkins of Carington
Sister Smith of Carington Sister Fielder of Cotton end
Sister Hammer of Elston

At a meting of the Church at Bedford ther way we cauld into
fellowship John yerjoy man at Longton namely William Nigus

At a meting of the Church at Gamlingay 7th month 1677
cauld in to this congregation Sister Carter at before
and five Lawful maids and two brethren namely Joseph Clob and
John Wheller.

At a Church meting at Gamlingay 8 month 1677.
ship with this congregation John Caleb. Thomas minted.
Thomas Upsell.

At a Church meting at Cotton end way we cauld in in to fellow
ship with this Congregation Henry man of Millstead. William
Lott of Cottonend Samuel Grabb of Carington. Elizabeth Caple
of Cotton end. the 9 day of nobember 1677

At a meting of the Church at Gamlingay ther was received
in to this congregation Thomas Dale Symon Hayward
Robert Day. Sister Asplyn
Sister Asplyn

At the same Church meting at Gamlingay the Church with
drew Communyan from our Brother William Gardiner of Gam
lingay for, witht light greefs and caragis to wards a woman of lusty
in gamlingay which him selfe made Adultry most of whom by the
name of our god and his wayes, and prooffe are so posed to great reproach
and infamye.

At a meting of the Church at Maulden way we cauld to walke in fellow
ships with this congregation Sister Crouch of Clayhill
Lusty wife at Clayhill

1676 the 7th of the 12th month 1676. (61

The Church of Christ in and about Bedford, to the Church of Christ in and about Braintree sendeth greeting

Holy and beloved we could not but with joy of the grace of life, having considered your request concerning our honored and beloved brother Samuel Honsham: that he should be given up to you for your mutuall edification and his furtherance and joy of faith: and considering also in the capacity he now standeth by reason of his habitation amongst you: his edification is to be from you: not from us his being by gods providence by which he is cast into the world, placed at such a distance from us. and considering also the great end of christ our Lord in ordaining the communyon of saints is his glory in their edification, and that all things are to be done by his command to the edification of the body in general and of every member in particular and that this we ought to do first in our watching in, and and giving up to other churches: and not to please our fancies: do as before god watched by you in the Lord. and to be nourished in the church at Braintree with you as one that we have taken father and our Lord Jesus Christ. and this we the willinger do, be cause as we are informed concerning you beloved, you are not rooted in your principles but are for communyon with saints by saints. and have been taught by the word to watch the one for the other's good because they are beloved and watched of the father and the Lord to whose grace we commend you with the brotherhood of late a number written by the Apostolick Church planted and established in the same by your Brethren as followeth

The Dismission of a private Member

John Bunyan
Sam Hern
John Hern
Luke Hatwood
Oliver Stot
Thomas Cooper
John Crofter

The Dimission of the mist

The church of cenrift in and a bout Bedford to the church of cenrift in and a bout Hitchin sendeth greeting

Holly and beloued, we the fellow heirs with you of the grace of life, hauing taken your dewright dofired concerneing our giueing vp to you, our beloued Bro John Willcox, in to seriouse consideration, with much prayer to god for direction in soe waigtie amatter, haue at last, god hauing bowed the heart of the Church to consent to what you haue both longed and wee trust much prayed for, granted and by these lines doe grant, and giue vp our beloued Brother, to fellowship vpo with you, for your mutuall edification and ioy of faith

we did not as some other to commend him to you, god hauing before prevented that by commending him to you in loue. now god and our father and our lord Iesus cenrift, that great shepherd of the sheep, make the lotd our guide and your beloued brother add blessing vnto you, in the ministery to feed and nourish vpt among you and ouersight man ouer you. if god and the church with you shall call him forth to

amon

wrighton for you by the consent of the church and subscribed in their named by your brethren

Thomas Cooper
Nath Pilan
Robert Holdstone
John Bunyan
Sam: Fenn
John Fenn
Luke Cligwood
Oliuer Stott
John Crocker
Thomas Hunycourt
Thomas Woodward
John Bardolph

66

1677

At a meeting of the Church in gainsbrough the Congregation with drew Communyan from Edward Dent of Gainsbrough the matter of fact charged upon him was for being negligent and unfaithfull as to the [redacted] management of his sisters imployment wch he was intrusted with; and also for contracting many debts wch he not yet was able to pay. wch he did go so howerly and wilfully take care to pay his creditors wch dut time of yr oft things he was much often exorted to it, and admonished by his brethren

At a Church meeting at gainsbrough 17 mary 1677 Brother Edwa Dent having at a Church meeting before made a publick confession of his evill in being slothfull in the management of his sisters imployment. and also guilty in defrauding of others of their right and that his owne brethren. the Congregation hearing god and praised his grace and made him truly sensible of the evill charged upon him, then did then for give him and restored him to full communyan conforming their love to him:

At the same meeting Brother Sutons man at norgill was restored into fellowshipe with this congregation namely Robert Ilger

At a meeting of the Church at Cottonend 11 mary 1677

william man at cottonend being convicted by his owne confession of standerous finds. that is to say, taxing him selfe finidefully towards a woman at lund in shefford hiring of her, and attempting unlawfull with her, to the great dishonor of the name of the lord Jesus and grife of his brethren, we did then with draw communyan from him admonishing to the commaundment of our lord Jesus christ, that he might be reclaimed

1678

At a full meeting of the Church at Cottonend the 6 day of the 3 month 1678 the brethren having made further inquiry conforming the miscarriage and a bominable finde of william man. did find that he was guilty of committing fornication and unlawfull with forreall, to the great dishonor of the gospell and people of god. and therfore for the vindication of gods name, and geving our sence of his finde, and all for for his soules health. we did then and there cast him out of the Church and do leave him to satan, for the destruction of the flesh, and that his spirit may be saved in the day of the lord Jesus.

1678

At a meeting holden at Bedford the 24 of July our sister
Mary Bokel (after privat admonition given her before) was put-
ting to publick for receiving and privatly maintaining of an horrid
Scandal (without caller of truth) against our Brother Hayward
for allso only by her committed all which she stood alle convicted of
and so must dow till her repentance for the same (according to
the word) is manifest unto the congregation

At a meeting of the Church at Luntry ther was warned unto fellowship our
sister Walsh & Laird with our brother John Hayward

At a Church meeting holden at Cambridge the 24 of October 1678
ther was warned in to fellowship our brother Gideon Maior of Potton
namely Allice Haywards

At a meeting of the Church at Eaton on 11 november ther was warned
in to fellowship with the Congregation our brother Stanton of Millbrook
and sister Cotton of Stagsden at the same meeting William
man did desire to speake sow thing which he said open in the congregation
Church gave him leave for to do and took it in to consideration

At a meeting of the congregation at Bottoms the 12 march 1678-
ther was then warned in to fellowship with the congregation sister Hayle
sister Sansom and sister Narow) our brother John Stanton was ad
monished by the Church of his evill in a reforme his wife and beating sister
for very light matter, he promised us reformation and sorrow for his fault-
At a Church meeting at Eaton was warned in to fellow
ship sister Brand were [illegible] ther a forth and sister Hull.

1679

At a Generall Church meeting at Bottoms the 15 of October
Sarah was warned in to fellowship with this Congregation
our brother Throughgoods wife at the same time it was taken
notice of that the Church was much grieved in the grace and love and
all for that the misbehaviour of the Congregation in the main turned
not their relation to the Congregation which took place it was pon
posed to the Church that care might be taken to consider of wayes
and meanes how we might [illegible] reforme, and reconcile our
Brethren one into another & how we to know our relation as fellow
ship of the gospell, which was upon the conclusion that our bro
ther John Stanton came notice given him to be at the next
Church meeting at Bottoms and for neglect of so important
for [illegible] and beating his wife, or else to turne of
[illegible] the next Church meeting ther to take [illegible] out of
his unfaithfulness in his transgression

68

1679

Chh A Church meeting at Bottenond the beginning of October 1679
John Stanton who lived a bout a mile of Bunkom or ther about
being driven twice admonished & sin found and withdrawn in keeping
his wife & children from church to wards sin. he being in penitent not
hearing the Church but after Church admonishing hee howsoeuer
still in sin Ther the Church did thon cast sin out of the fellowship
and deliver him up to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that
the spirit might be saued in the day of the Lord Jesus.

At a Generall Church meeting at Bottenond the 12day of nouember 1679
the church did solemnly giue them selues up to the Lord and one unto another
and did promise in the strength of Christ to walke more in love one with another
and to preserue the purity of ther relation more carefully then formerlie they
had done ther was then seuen named of the brethren and sisters put downe
in the church book which before had been omitted
There was at the same time Appointed a Church meeting at gamlingay
tuesday come fortnight.

1680

At a Generall Churchmeeting at Bottenond the 2day of nouember 1680
John Wildman did at that Church meeting manage d charge against the congregation
which he had drawne up most of it in writing and sent to us some time before
in the managing of which charge he was found extraordinary guilty of a kind of
railery and very great passion wch must condemned by the whole congregation
Also he was found guilty of slandering the congregation and brethren in particular
our beloued and honoured brother Bunyan, in what he had spoken to Mr Gibs-
don for he did deparately charge our brother and pastor: John Bunyan with dealing
the Sisters to draw their Husbands estates, in order to put a story upon them: wher
in he was proued before the whole congregation all a bout which he lyes and
slanders of our beloued brother Bunyan for those causes with others the
congregation did at that meeting in Christ cast him out, drew Church communion
from him with a joynt consent not one dissenting as mater ing the least scruple it
was then agreed upon that if the congregation did not put him out at the next
Church meeting he should be cast out of the Church,

1681

(69

At a Church meeting at Bedford 12th April 1681 thorway
Thos Howard in to fellowship with this congregation our sister Wards
of Bedford and our sister Elizabeth Howard

At a meeting of the Church at Bedford 1st 31 may 1681 thorway upon
Howard to walk in fellowship with this congregation our brother Randall
Taylor our brother William White of Kimpston our brother as likewise
with godman Magistrate of Ware and our sister Allen:

A letter sent by the elders to sister Hamblin by way of reproof
for her unseemly language against her Sect and the whole Church

Sister Hamblin,

It was and a little surprizing to us to hear in what spirit you acted,
and with what language and reflections you let out your anger when you
was with us at Bedford, uttered against our Colonel Bro. Jackson and again
the Church in general, and against the elders in particular of which a particular
account may be given you when we shall next speak with you which and
where we shall expect satisfaction by the proof of your repentance to us and God
and your unfeigned acknowledgement of your disingage of your brethren.

I remain
Sam. Fenn

Of which miscarriage the form made humble acknowledgement to Satisfaction

A letter sent to brother Gibs (1681)

Honored brother Gibs. grace be with you and peace from god the father and our lord Jesus christ.
forward your louing letter some weeks ago, but did not think it so convenient to answer
it in writing vnto you. vntil tuesday last we had at Bedford a church meeting where John
Mildmay brother was taken into consideration. but there we could not find, things they were
for it were by all inuited desired to speak that there was too brethren desired he should preach;
yet they all but ouerheard it, and that one was John Hensman, who shifted stood to him
at the beginning, but was so ashamed of him before the meeting was done, that he desisted him
in the face of the whole congregation. yea he prayed him selfe into a tailor and almost into a
notorious lier in that place, that he was in his acting abominated by the church were desired
that I with the rest whose names are heare vnder written should signifie to you
that I with the rest whose names are heare vnder written should signifie to you

It was thought necessary therefore at that meeting by the congregation that then ye should for
his wicked ness be at that time withdrawne from, in order to his being reclaimed ye next if meant
and found not be found in him to ye contrary.

1 his wicked ness were horrible railing both then and at seuerall times before, against the elders
and preaching brethren with the whole church

2 by abominable standalizing of seuerall in the church;

3 by and large wicked living as hath seldome been heard to proceed out of the mouths of men
was then found in his mouth.

These are sent vnto you by the order and appointment of the congregation witnes us whose hands
are heard vnto subscribed —

John Bunyan
Samuell fform

we pray you that these things
or the tenour of them may
be signified to oldy and Hartwell
& Wimbish & rest of things signifie
it to us and we may hearken after
the next church meeting

On the tenth day of November one aged, and much honored Bro
Ben Sawster departed this life
on the twelfth day of the same one honoured Bro: Samuell fform
one of the Elders of this Congregation departed this life.

(1) The eighth day mentioned & ymended.
Meetings at seuerall places: see below.

Agreed that on the 22 of this month the church doe meet together
to humble themselves before god for the sin that hath provoked god to lay this
calamity vpon us. also on the 24 day of the same month we had a meeting
& fasting upon the same account

At which meetings we also concluded that upon the 12 of December
next the brethren come together to pray to god and to consider how to manage
the affairs of the church for their further edification.
This which was also done for then at Cotton end was these things concluded
1 That the seuerall meetings that are vpheld by the congregation: to wit Bedford, Houghton
Haluen, Cotton end, Eversholt and Gamlingay, should be better supplied, and that more for
and more particularly agreed to their seuerall places.
2 That there be an elder & deacon chosen for the worke of our bro John fform and our bro
Ben Croker in their care for and providing for the poor. and our Bro William Hawkes
is at that time nominated and agreed for that work
That the work of visiting elders be considered of, and their qualifications in order to
Charge and a presidential of some to that work in this congregation
1. That this congregation doth make enquiry after their gifts that may be obser
& church and that a way be found out for their exercise with more
well gifts encouraged.

5

A record of the church acts.

1681
(71)

5 That the first Thursday in every month be kept in prayer for to beg God's blessing upon the preaching of the Word, for the conversion of our children and for the union and blessing of god upon the king and parliament.

6 That the members in the congregation do agree to meet to gether once in six weeks to confer and to pray to god for a blessing upon their ministry

Appointed that a church meeting to break bread be at gamblingay the twenty first of December and so there was

Appointed that a church meeting be at Bedford the eleventh of January 1682
and so there was at which time church broke bread, and received into fellowship one sister elsewhere, and one sister Jill.

A letter of commendation sent from this church to that with which Mr Cocken walketh touching our Bro: Breeden

The church of christ in and about Bedford to the church of christ walking with our beloved Bro Cockain in London, wisheth abundance of grace by Jesus christ

Beloved Brethren,

We commend unto you our Brother William Breeden, who is one of us but by reason that his place of habitation is with you in London, and so remote from us: and because he desireth that his distance from us might not be a bar to him as to his christian Communion: and also because he desireth to be helped forward in his christian course by having admittance by you in to all church ordinances: therefore we pray you in the bowels of christ to receive him, and to be a nurse to him in the Lord

Jo. Bunyan
Jo. Fenn
Edward Scot
Anthony Harrington
John Bandolph
Will: Nicholas
Tho Woodward
Nich: Mallin
John Croker.

At a church meeting at gamblingay the 17 of march was received into fellowship with this congregation our Bro: John Wells of gamblingay
At a church meeting at Bedford the 30 of march was received into fellowship with this congregation our Bro: Daniel Squire of Wooden. It was also ordered at a church meeting at Bedford at Cotton end at Gamblingay Jan: 1681 before that a letter of commendation should be sent to our Sister Joan Cooke, now in London to stand with said congregation there she thought good for her edification and the furtherance of her faith.

A letter sent to brother Gibs (1681)

Honored brother Gibs. grace be with you and peace from god the father and our lord Jesus christ.
I received your lowring letter some while of god, but did not think it so convenient to answer
it in mine owne mind. onne tuesday last we had a Church meeting where John
Mildmay business was taken into consideration. but there we could not find, things they where
for it were by all mouned desired to speak that there was too bretheren desired he should preach;
you they all but one declined it, and that one was John Hoxman, whose life is good to him
but the beginning, but was sor ashamed of him before the meeting was done, that he desired him
in the face of the whole congregation. you he proved him self to be a railer and a hurt, a
notorious lier in that place, that he was in his acting a dominated by the church where he lived
that I with the rest whose names are soare under written should signifie to you
It was thought necessary therefore at that meeting by the congregation that then he should for
his wicked ness be put from, withdrawne from, in order his being reclaimed if he might
and peace might not be found in him to prevent it.

1 his manners were horrible railing both then and at several times before, against the elders
and preaching brethren with the whole church
2 ly a dominable standalizing of several in the Church
3 ly and sure wicked living as hath seldome been heard to proceed out of the mouths of men
was then found in his mouth.
These are sent unto you by the order and appointment of the congregation witness us whose hands
are heard unto subscribed —

John Bunyan
Samuell fform

we pray you that these things
or the contents of them may
be signified to Olney and Hartwell
parts; and if you desire a more
particular & recital of things signified
to us and you may hear it after
the next Church meeting

On the tenth day of November one 1681 and much honored Bro
Thomas Sexton departed this life
On the twelfth day of the same one honoured Bro: Samuel fform
one of the Elders of this Congregation departed this life

[illegible] mentioned [illegible]
meetings at several places: see above.

Appointed that on the 22 of this month the church doe meet together
to humble themselves before god for the sin that hath provoked god to lay this
rod in hand upon us. also on the 24 day of the second month we had a meeting
& humbling upon the same account

At which meetings we also concluded that upon the 12 of December
next, the brethren come together to pray to god and to consider how to manage
the affairs of the church for her further edification
This which was also for then at Cotton end was these things concluded
1 That the several meetings that are upheld by the congregation: to wit Bedford, Kempston
Pulvern, Cotton end, Eduelth and Tambertey, should be better supplied, and bro: more for
the ministry particularly appointed to their respective places.
2 That there be an elder Deacon chosen for the help of our bro John fform and our bro
Jun Croker in their care and providing for the poor. Jun our Bro William Hanker
was at that time nominated and approved for that work
That the work of visiting others be considered of, and their qualifications in order to
that work and a particular of some to that work in this congregation
1. That the congregation doth make diligence after their gifts that may be observed
& church and that a way be found out for their exercise and in order
well to be encouraged.

5

A record of the church acts.

1681
(71)

5 That the first Thursday in every month be kept in prayer for to beg God's blessing upon the preaching of the Word, for the conversion of the children and for the increase and blessing of god upon the king and parliament.

6 That the peaceable in the congregation do agree to meet to gether once in six weeks to confer and to pray to god for a blessing upon their ministry

Appointed that a church meeting to break bread be at gamblingay the twenty first of December and so there was

Appointed that a church meeting be at Bedford the eleventh of January {1682}
and so there was at which time church broke bread, and received into fellowship one sister christian, and one sister Jail.

A letter of commendation sent from this church to that with which Mr Cokain walketh touching our Bro: Breeden

The church of christ in and about Bedford to the church of christ walking with our beloved Bro Cockain in London, wisheth abundance of grace by Jesus christ

Beloved Brethren,

We commend unto you our Brother William Breeden, who is one of us but by reason that his place of habitation, is with you in London, and so remote from us: and because he desireth that his distance from us might not be a bar to him of to his christian Communion: and also because he desireth to be helped forward in his christian course by having admittance by you in to all church ordinances: therefore we pray you in the bowels of christ to receive him, and to be a nurse to him in the Lord

Jo. Bunyan
Jo. Fenne
Edward Scot
Anthony Harrenglon
John Bandolph
Wm. Nicholas
Tho. Woodward
Mich. Mallin
John Croker.

At a church meeting at gamblingay the 17 of march was received into fellowship with this congregation our Bro: John Webb of gamblingay

At a church meeting at Bedford the 30 of march was received into fellowship with this congregation our Bro: Daniel Squire of Tuddington. It was also ordered at a church meeting at Bedford at Cotton end and at Gamblingay formerly before that a letter of commendation should be sent to our sister Joan Cooke, now in London to Mr Jones with which congregation she thought good for her edification and the furtherance of her faith.

1682 (72) A record of the church

Several meetings for prayer and breaking of bread.

A church-meeting at Gamlingay August 31 for breaking of bread
A church-meeting General at Cottenend the 20th of September
A church-meeting General at Bedford the 4th of October.

1683 Several church-meeting since
A church-meeting at Cotten. end the 20 of April for breaking of bread where
there was also a godly letter of John Wilsonians presented to the congregation
where in he complaith our dealing with him for his conversion and a misdemeanor
swearing and forbing, and he desires a correspondance &c. answere to which was sent him
this following admonition from the same meetings.

Affriend Wilsonian,

Your letter has bin plainly read before us; and since you have bin withdrawn
from by the church for lying, railing, and scandalizing of the church in generall
and some of the brethren in perticular. It is expected
John Wilsonian
1 That there be the fignes of true repentance found in you for the same
2 and also that you being from the hands of those in the country before whom you
have alleged us, some fignes of their satisfaction concerning your repentance before
we can admitt you againe into our communion. Written for them and sent
you by order of the congregation. witness

John Grimyan — John Croker
John Storm — Oliver Scot
Thos: Woodward — Will: Nicholls
Joh: Bandalph — Will Hawkes
Joh Symonds — Tho Cooper
Will: Scarlet — Tho Sansome
John Hargmon — Jo Whitbread
John Warren — Sym. Haywood.

At a Church meeting the 19th of Octob 1683: at Cotton End
there was Vote to walk in Fellowship with this Congregation
our Sista Margaret Richardson of Yorkson.
A Church meeting at Cottonend ye 21 of Novem: for Breaking of Bread & prayer
At an Assembley of ye Congregation at Bedford ye 28 of ye twelfth month
the desire of Bro: John Wilson Jun: to walk in Fellowship with this
Congregation was propounded.
At the desire of some of our Bre: it was Granted that Bro: Wilson
should walk a Little Longer: for ye further proffe of faith Constancy & sincerity
A Church meeting at Cottonend ye 29 of April: for Breaking of Bread & prayr.
1684 At a Church meeting ye 13th of July at Cottonend there was Voted to walk
in Fellowship with this Congregation our Sister Eliz: Bzard & our Sista Layton of Haines
At a Church meeting at Bedford ye 7 of August there was Vote to walk in Fellowship
with this Congregation our Sista Margt & our Sista Hayes of Kenston ...

10 - dear Lord

Mary Hosk recd

1686

At a Church Meeting holden at Bedford ye 19th of December our Sister Mary Hoskiff: whom ye Church had formerly withdrawn there Communyon from for that shee had Recd and witnessed an horrid Scandall of Bro: Hunyla without any Caller of Truth: Shee now manyfesting her Sorrow and Repentance for ye Same; was Restored into ye Fellowship & Communyon of ye Church and to ye Enjoyment of her former Spirituall Joys & Ordinances of Christ

1687

Henry Mann

At a Church meeting at Colemans ye 4th of Septem: the Church with Bro: there Communyon from our Bro: Henry man of Hanes Bo handing Bogs before Admonished to Repentance for his Profane Lying and underhand false Dealing in his calling

At ye Same Time also two of ye Bro: were Appointed to Goe to Bro: Hayman to Admonish him again if God will work it for his Recovery

William Hayman

At a meeting of ye Congregation at Bedford ye 9th of Octob: there was Recd to walk in Fellowship with this Congregation Bro: George Cook of Yorkshire Bro: William Dixon Gardner & our Bro: Woodward. Sister Bradbury; and Sister Lamb of Bedf

1688

At a Church meeting at Bedford ye 24 of may there was Recieved to walk in Fellowship with this Congregation our Bro: Thomas Tomson. Sister Cook. Sister Tilley. Sister H. Wilkinson; & our Sister Julian Browne

At a Church Meeting at Gamlingay ye may 30 there was Recd to walk in Fellowship with this Congregation our Sister Townsend and our Sister Bay

At a meeting of the Congregation at Bedford ye 9th of August there was Restored to walk in Fellowship with this Congregation our Bro: James Mallows and our Sister Woodward Sister Arrabell & Sister Cook

Bunyan's death.

Wednesday the 4th of September was kept in prayer and Thanksgiving for this Heavy Stroak upon us ye death of dear Bro: Bunyan Appointed also that Wednesday next be kept in prayer & Humiliation on the same Account. [he fell asleep in Jesus August 31. 1688.]

Appointed that all ye Bro: meet to Gether on ye 18th of this month Sept to Humble them selves for this Heavy hand of God upon us, and also to pray unto ye Lord for Counsell and Direction what to doe in order to look out for A fit person to make Oyre off for an Elder

Tuesday ye 18 of Septr was ye whole Congregation met to Humble them selves before god by Fasting & Prayer for his Holy & Sovrain Stroak upon us in taking away our Honoured Bro: Bunyan by death

It was Agreed also at ye Same meeting by ye whole Congregation that care be taken to look out for and Suitably Qualified to be Chosen an Elder Amongst us: and that care was committed by ye whole to the Bro: in Bedford

There was also moved to the Congregation ye case of John Wilkinson: w was then thought meete to be deferred untill an other time for that ye Case now not Generall wayby Confessing depending amongst them

Wednesday ye 3d of October is Appointed for a day of Humiliation & prayer for John Wilkinson desired a Conference with Several of the Brethren as Tho: Wardwell John Croker. John Bardolph & others, in order to his manifesting Signes of Repentance as was Hoped but to no purpose he there Showing Great Restifnesse and Self willednesse in his way And Vindicating his Practises.

A Record of the Acts of the Church

{1689 At A meeting the 16 of Decembr at Bedford 1689 Appointed for prayer and Seeking of God for direction and A Blessing upon our Endeavors and proceedings for the Settlment of our Chandler Amongst us

there was ordered at the Same meeting that the Church do Give him a Call to Continue Amongst us as minister of the word unto us and order we shall Call him to the office of pastor and Elder over us

It was ordered also at the Same meeting that A Letter of Recommendation be Sent from this Congregation to that in London of which Honoured and Corkyan is pastor of our Sister Eliz Brate who by providence is Cast there

Also Another of our Sister Sara Tompkins to Partake of the ordinances of God Amongst those in Fellowship in and About Luton

the Churches message was Sent & Delivered to our Chandler According to the Appointment of the Church: By Bro: Nicholls Bro Woodward & Bro Hawkes

dem 20 1689

A Letter of Commendation

The Church of Christ in and About Bedford to the Church of Christ Walking with our Honoured & Wellbeloved Bro Corkyan in London Wisheth Abundance of Grace by Jesus Christ our Lord:

Beloved Bro:

Understanding by Sum Lines from Honoured Bro: Corkyan that there is Expectation from us of A Letter Concerning our Sister Eliz Brate that as one of us But by providence of Late her Habitation is with you in London and So Remote from us: Not Doubting but that it is her desire that her distance from us might be no Barr to her Communion and also that her desire is, to be Helped forward in her Christian Course by having Ordinances by you; into all Christ ordinances therefore we pray you in the Bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ to Receive her and be A Nurse unto her She is of Sound Faith And hath been of Honest Conversation with us:

John Hamm — Edward Shepard
Willm Hawkes — Thomas Cooper
John Crocker — and ye Rest

Another Letter of Commendation

The Church of Christ in and About Bedford; to the Church of Christ in Luton Walking with our Beloved Bro: Maylum; Wisheth you may abound with all Grace and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen

Beloved Brethren

we having been Acquainted with the desire of our Honoured Sister Sara Tompkings widdow and as we hope A widdow indeed who is one of us but by divine providence; of Late her Habitation is with you. She being Sensible of the want of Christ ordinances & the Communion of Saints is Desirous to be Admitted by you; unto all the ordinances of of Christ in his Church: that She may be Helped forward in her Christian Course; and we Considering the Great end of Christ our Lord in ordaining y^e Communion of Saints is his owne Glory in their Edification; Therefore to be promoted by us According to his own Rule: And Hoping that you are of that Good and Sound principle; as to have Communion with Saints as they are Saints: tho they may differ in Some Judgments in Sum Circum Stantiall things. Therefore we pray you in the Bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ to Receive her unto all of Christ Jesus our Lord. She is of Sound Faith and of A Holy Life and has Given Good proofs of her Love to Christ

John Bardolph
John Hamm — Anthony Harington
John Crocker — Edward Shepard and ye Rest
Willm Hawkes

A Letter desiring Mr Chandler's dimission from Mr Taylor's Church at London to that of Bedford

The Church of Christ in and About Bedford: to the Church of Christ in London of which Mr Jayler is Pastor: Sendeth Greeting:

Reverend and Dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus.

Since the Good providence of God hath directed Mr Chandler sometime at your Lecture to the exercise of his ministeryall Gift, Amongst us we have Experienced Som Benifit by his blessing of God Indeed upon And not only Amongst our Selves of ye Congregation; but from others Resorting to here his word of God, have observed Som awakeinge And Comfortable Effect of his preaching which we could not but owne as the will of God for our Encouragment; to desire his Continuance and Settlement amongst us: and did this day at a Church meeting, from time time Appointed; Signifie our Such desires to him: in answer to which we had an intimation from him of your haveing sent to him that he might advise with and be directed by you in this afore said matter; which Considering his Relation to you we did not Gainsay; but take Leave Humbly to offer the premizes to your Consideration:

we do not doubt but that the prosperity and Edifycation of Christ Church is Heartily desired by you; and that amongst others as well as your owne Congregation: and if the Great need we stande in of his help; the Blessing And Success of his Endeavours: the Generall Consent and Liking of this Congregation: joyned with ye desires of many others that are borderers & Hearers be well weyed by you; we are hopefull he may Receive your Allowance and Consent to a Settlement amongst us: the Circumstances of our Condition are Known to Mr Cokayne: who was at first Instrumentall to direct him to us; we intreat that Som of you would Consult him there and so soon as possible you can you would Grant us a favourable Returne to a Conclusion of our Request with will be very thankfully accepted by your Christian ffriends to serve you

Wm Whitbread
John Crooke
Edward Dent
Nath: Maling
Will Nichols
Willm Hawkes
Tho Sanham
John ffenn
Tho Woodward
in the name of the rest

About ye 5 of October it was Agreed that Noahs be Giuen for a Generall Church meeting to be held at Bedford on the 20 day of this Instant to seek unto God and debate About Singing of Psalms in Publick on the Lords days: And for the Confession of the Rd Worsh

A Record of the Acts of the Church 1690

Singing allowed of under certain restrictions

Brethren agreed 18: dissent from it - 2

At a Church meeting at Bedford the 20th Day of octobr 1690: it was debated and agreed that Publick singing of Psalms be practised by ye Church with a Confession that we offer ye performing it but Christ as to ye command of Christ. ran singing with Grace in their Hearts according to ye rule of Christ.

at the same meeting it was also agreed that A Letter of dismission be granted to Bro: Samuell Hotchkiss in order to his joyning himself with the Church of Christ in London of which mr Mathew Mead is Pastor for his Edifycation & help of faith: he being useful to us and we also to him by reason of his distance of habitation from us.

The Church of Christ in and about Bedford to the Church of Christ in London of which mr Mead is Pastor sendeth greeting

Holy & beloved

we heare with you of ye Grace of Life: handing Rood forvsall Request from our Beloved Bro: Samuell Hotchkiss: that we would Give him up in order to be a member with you; for his edification and furtherance and joy of faith and Considering ye Capasity he now Standeth: Going by the providence of God by which he disposeth the world; placed at such a distance from us; and handing his Habitation so neare you, that his edification must be from you & not from us. Considering also the Great end of Christ our Lord in ordayning ye Communion of Saints is his Glory in the edification of the Body in Generall and of Every member in particular; and this ought to be our designe in Receiving & Giving up to other Churches and not to pursue our owne wills. we do therfore in the prosence of God. Grant & Give up to you our Beloved Brother Samuell Hotchkiss: to be Ruled by you in ye Lord; and to be Ruled in the Church with you: as one that is deare to the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ; and this we doe being Comfortably perswaded Concerning you beloved: that your Holdfastship & walking is according to the Rules of ye Gospell:

Now recommending you and the Brother unto the word of his Grace which is able to build you up and desiring that ye God of peace will Keepe you in peace. we with you; to God

Rest yours in the Lord and bid you Heartily Farewell

Written by ye appointment of ye Church. and in her Name

Subscribed by us

John Crooker
Anth: Harpington
Will: Nicholls
Tho woodward
Tho: Cooper
John Bardolph
John Honybun
Willm Harcourt
Simon Haynard
Thomas Hungerford
Thomas Tompson

A Church meeting on ye 20 of January 1690 to seek unto God And Humble our Soules for our sin and ye Condition ye Church is in: in ye want of a Pastor: at ye same time was appointed another Church meeting to be at Bedford ye on ye 10th of February Next 1691

at ye Meeting afore appointed after much time spent in seeking the Lord by prayer it was debated that mr Chandler sending his Request to ye Church at London of which he is a member that they Give him a dismission in order to joyne with this Church: and upon ye whole debate it was agreed that the Conclusion be deferred until the next meeting which is appointed the 23 of this instant Febr and that in the mean time a Letter be sent to him Exhorting

The Church of Christ in [illegible]
whereof Richard Taylor is Pastor
To the Church of Christ at Bedford
Sendeth greeting

Dear Brethren

Our Beloved Brother Ebenezer Chandler having exercised his Ministeriall Gifts among You for some time with no little Success for the building up of Saints and the Bringing in of Sinners. And You having Chosen and fixd upon Him as a Person judgd every way fitt for ye Pastorall Charge of Your Church have importund us at Sundry times with Your reiterated Requests for his Dismission from Us That hee might be receivd as a Member amongst You in Order to his being Seperated to Office work We have seriously consd and weighd the Power And from a Prospect of his being more serviceable to the Common Interest of Our Lord Jesus Christ brought (althô with no small Reductancy) to grant Your Requ And are willing to impoverish Our Selves for the enriching of You We do therefore give up Unto You Our Dear Brother And do hereby signify that his Reception among You as a Stated Member shall be his formall and full Dismission from Us Wishing the Advancement of Truth and Love in the Midst of You and begging an abundant Blessing upon all Your Ch[illegible] Administrations together with a Request that You would be mindfull of Us We bid You heartily farewell

Given at Our Church Meeting the 18th Day of ye Eighth Month 1691.

Signd by Us in the Name of the rest
Rich: Taylor pastor
Humph: Hackshaw
John Bound
Eben: Chandler

Chandlers Letter about singing — & about baptism

A Record of ye Acts of ye Church : 1690/1

to Give them a Right understanding of Sum things which through
Mis. Information or Confusion they seem Not well Satisfied with

at a Church meeting ye 23: of Febry 1695 ye Letter afore-sd
was Returned on it Received as followeth wth ye Answer:

Deare Brethren

In Pursuance of your request I have here written an Account of ye
this Church hath agreed for since my coming among them that if I might
I may have my Continued Clear towards God & peace and comfort in my being
with you, Imp: our Ele: have determined that those that are perswaded in
there Consciences that publick Singing is an ordinance of God, shall practice
it on ye Lord day in our meeting in Bedford: those that are of differing
judgments have their Liberty whether they Sing ye or not or whether they be
present whilst we Sing, so that they doe burn their Pipes or other Parts of
Gods worship. Moreover if it at all designed to be imposed or proposed to any
other meeting of the church Again with respect to Baptisme; I have my
Liberty to Baptise Infants without making it my business to promote it amongst
others and every member to have his Liberty in Beleivers Baptisme: only
to Harbard disputes & debates on it that may have a tendency to break the
peace of ye church: when thought Expedient ye Church doth designe to
Choose an administrator of Beleivers Baptisme, we doe not designe
to make baptisme whether of Beleivers or Infants any Bar to communion
only ye church hath promised, that none shall hear after to my Grieffe or
trouble or dissatisfaction be Admitted, this I have wrote as my judgment
that I shall stand by; and if ye Sentiments of my bre as our Sundy doe
Testifie:

Eben. Chandler

We The Brethren of this Church in & about Gamlingay doe Heartily
and Cordially acquiesse in this Letter; only desire to have Liberty to
speake or Pray Beleivers Baptisme if ye Lord shall see it upon our
hearts; yet with that Tenderness as being far from any Sum designe
as to bind at Least ye breaking ye peace of ye Church; and do Hearty
grant our Bro: Chandler ye same Liberty to Speak of or Pray in Infant
Baptisme Provided with ye same tenderness. witness our Hands in ye
Names of ye rest:

Nath Maling
John Webb
Francis Baron

at ye same meeting it was agreed by ye Church; and requested of
Mr Chandler that he send a Letter to ye Church he is a member with in
London forthwith for a Dismission from them; in order to joyne in
Fellowship with this Church & to be called to office with us speedily

it was ordered also at ye same meeting that Bro: Nichols & Broths
Crowter doe goe to Father Honours & to Sister Julian to perswade in
them in all Christian Love; that they maintaine their Communion
and Fellowship with ye Church according to their Joynt Solemn Covenant &
Christian duty as becometh those that have Confidence towards God or
Godwill to ye peace and prosperity of this Church which they have Ge
themselves unto:

78) A Record of the Acts of the Church: 1691: & Dismission
Mr Chandlers

The Church having waited a long time for Mr Chandlers Dismission and at length Considering it: did thereupon Appoint A Generall church meeting for to Ordain Mr Chandler A member of this Congregation in order to his being called unto office work in this church:
A Church meeting Appointed on the occasion before specified on Fryday ye 3 of Novemr 1691: —

A Coppy of ye Letter of Mr Chandlers dismission.
The Church of Christ in London Whereof Richard Taylor is Pastor: to the Church of Christ in Bedford Sendeth Greeting:

Dear Brethren

Our Beloved Brother Ebenezer Chandler having Exercised his ministeriall Gifts among you for some time with no Little fruitfulness for ye Building up of Saints And the Bringing in of Sinners: And you having Chosen & fixed upon him as a Person judged Every ways fitt for the Pastorall Charge of your Church have importuned us at Sundery times with you reiterated Request for his dismission from us that he might be Ordained as a member amongst you in order to his being Separated to office Work
we having seriously considered and Weighed the matter And from a proffer of his being eminently serviceable to ye common interest of our Lord Jesus Christ are Brought (although with no small Reluctancy) to Grant your Request and are willing to Impoverish our selves for ye enriching of you We do — Therefore Give unto you our Dear Brother and do Hereby Signify that his Reception among you as a stated member shall be his formall and full dismission from us Wishing the abundance of Truth & Love in ye midest of you And Begging an abundant Blessing upon all your Church Administrations together with a Request that you would be mindfull of us We bid you Heartily Farewell

Signed by us in the Name of ye Rest
Rich: Taylor pastor
Humph: Hardshaw
John Bowd
Hon: Chandler

Given at our Church Meeting the 18 day of ye Eighth Month: 1691.

Mr Chandler Ordained into Eldership

At a Generall Church Meeting at Bedford on ye 3 day of Novem: 91 our Honoured Brother Chandler was Ordained a member of this Congregation to ye Great joy & satisfaction of all ye

..d62 part first

At a Generall Church meeting at Bedford on the 18th day of December our Beloved Brother Ebenezer Chandler Was Elected and set Apart to ye work & office of Pastor in this Church of Christ ....

And it was then appointed that on Lords day come fortnight he do Administer the Lords Supper to the members of this Church:

At the same meeting there was Signified the desire of to joyne in Fellowship with this congregation

At A Church Meeting at bedford June ye 11: 1691 there was Joyned into ye Fellowship of this Church Sister Knott Lording in Goldington parish in the pastures and our Sister Mary Flint and Sister Dunham of Kempston

at ye same meeting the names of members registred in the Church Book was Read ordr: and ordered that Bro Crafter and Bro: Hawkes do make an inspection how those members stand that are under ye sentence of ye Church or have at any time been Admonished and to know what there offences are and who do absent from the Church meeting ordered also that Bro Cooper & Bro: Humylond Goe to Sister Honour And Julian Browne to know there Reasons wherefore it is that they do not Maintaine there communion with ye Church

at the same time it was Appointed that a Church meeting be at Gamlingay ye 8th of February where are Generall persons to be Joyned into Fellowship:

At a Church meeting at Gamlingay ye 8 day of Febr: 1691 there was Joyned into Fellowship with this Congregation: Humphrey East: Thomas Mosses Tho: Carolett: Elizabeth Apthorpe and Mary Waters all of Gamlingay and Joyned at the same time William Carlett of Bedford

1691 4th & 6: of March Appointed for Breaking of Bread and for ye future Every first Lords day in Every month

Appointed that A Church meeting be at Bedford the 4 day of march and that the Church do then take into Consideration ye State & cases of those members that stand withdrawn from by ye Church. and that ye Church do also make Inquiry after those members that do not Come there communion with the Church and to Appoint some Bro: to visit such members and Endeavour to Convince them of there duty to God & his Church of Christ.

At A Church Meeting ye 4 day of March 1691 there was Joyned in to the Communion of this Church Brother Richard Flint And Sister Negus of Bedford

A Record of ye Acts of the Church: 1692.

At a Church Meeting at Bedford March ye 7 1691/2 as it was apointed at the Last meeting Bro: Crofter and Bro: Hawkes Represented the State of those members that were under the Censures of the Church and also of things that did not maintaine there communion at present with ye Church And it was then Apoynted that Bro: Cooper Bro Crofter & Bro Hawkes should go to Brother John Horn to know ye Reason of his not coming to the Lords Table and deserting him self from Church meetings and also to Admonish him of sum ill boroning carriges towards ye Church and false Reports of our Bro: Chandler: viz that he had preached false doctrine &c.

ye Church sent to Bro John Horn

And that mr Chandler Bro: woodward Bro Nichols & Bro Hawkes goe to sister Wildbread: And Bro: Cooper and Bro: Hunnings to mrs Honour and to Sulyan Brown And that Bro Chandler and Bro: Cooper goe to Shefo at Maulden and Arlingtonshead to see how stand the Case are in and the Reason why they came not to our Church meetings and take there places in Church

Bro: John Henfman having been overtaking in A fault did at the Same meeting declare his sorrow and Repentance for the same

Sister Landy and sister Ann Burrows also standing A Long time Soon under the Censure and Admonition of this Church for sin did both of them make there Acknowledgment and were again Received into the communion of this Church of Christ with all ye Priviliges belonging to it

sister Landy & Ann Burrows Rec'd again

And forasmuch as there has been sum discord for sum time between Bro: Sutton and Bro: Thomas Bunyan: Bro Prosstand & Bro Hunge war Apoynted to goe to them And Endeavour to make up the differance but if they could not then to Apoynt A day to Come to Bedford and also to desire the Latter to forbeare preaching till sum time as ye differance be made up And Bro Nichols Bro: woodward Mr Chandler Bro Crofter & Bro Hawkes to hear this matter.

T. B.

† explain alination in order to preaching

The 2 day of April being Lords day was Apoynted to break bread and so for the future Every first Lords day in every month:

At a Church meeting at Bedford ye 11 day of April Bro Crofter and Bro: Bardolph Certified the Church that they had been with Bro: Horn And he being present was desired to give his Reasons himself to the Church wherefore he did not come to ye Lords table and take his place and be peaceable in Church fellowship: and his Answer was that he was ... dissatisfied with sum brethren but who he would not then declare but would first speak with them before the next Church meeting and then promised that if he Recd satisfaction from them he would take his place

T. B.

Bro Prosstand and Bro Hunge certified ye Church that they had Endeavored to make up the differance between Bro: Sutton and Bro Thomas Bunyan but could not therefore it is ordered that they Apoynt A day themselves sum time next week to come to Bedford that ye Bro: here may Endeavor the Reconciliation between them:

The Rest of the Brethren Apoynted to goe to other persons that not opportunity to speake with them so that Remaining as it did

Hier was also signified the desire of these persons following to joyne in Fellowship with this Church of Christ: Mist: Apthorp Goody Palmer Goo: Carlos Eliz Martin and Ann Dale: all of Gamblingay & wid Barr of Blunham and Robert Wildbread & his wife Sara Smith mary Wilder & Mary Gates all of Cardington and Mrs Coome of Bedford:

At a church meeting ye 3 day of may 1692 was Read into the fellowship of this Congregation our sister Coomes our sister Peall of Bedford and sistr Wilshear mary Wilshear and Sara Smith of Harrading and mary Gates of Carinton: Robert Milsar desired to defer it a Little Longer: Read also of the same meeting mary Smith of Okley

At a Church meeting at Gamblingay the 9 day of may 1692 was Read into fellowship with this Congregation Bro: Nicholls Apthorp sistr Palmer George Coarloss Eliz: Martin and Ann Dale all of Gamblingay and sistr Batt of Bunham: we had Assurance also that the Difference between Brother Sutton And Bro Tho: Bunyan was Reconciled

Read into fellowship with this congregation the meeting at Gamblingay of Coarloss Edward Martin wife: Palmer George Coarloss Elizabeth Martin Nicholls wife of Bunham

At a church meeting at Bedford June 6 1692 Ware was then Read into the fellowship of this congregation Rich: Bigrave Robert Wilkshire Georg: Mabury Samuell Whiteman Thomas Knott and Deborah Wright of Ampthill

And for all others Propounded in order to be Read the next church meeting Apointed to be at Bedford on ye first of July 1692

At a church meeting ye first of July 1692 there was Read into fellowship with the Church of Christ: John Tole of Chollinton John Hill of Ampthill Susan: Lewis of Milton Katharine Spenser Elizabeth Coortman and Ann: Flint all of Bedford And propounded in order to be Read ye next church meeting these persons following viz: Richard Horne mary Mabury mary Dunn mary Crisp Rogers and ye desire of Henry Sarry to sit downe with this church was propounded and it was Agreed for as much as he Now stands a member of ye church in and about Hopinton that a Letter be first sent to Acquaint them therewith and that it may be done with there consurance.

At a church meeting at Bedford July 27 1692 there was Read into fellowship with this church of christ Richard Horne of Colbinton and Mary Mabury mary Dunn. Mary Crisp did at this same time Relate her Experiance but for the further satisfaction of some members she was desired to wait a little Longer

Bre: Chandler [A Letter of Consideration

This may inform y worthy you & your Brethren remaining our bro: Savage that he hath been A member with us in full communion for many years and which time he hath been in our Station A gracious wise & sober Christian & so still but on y 17 of June last past he came to our church meeting & did desire of us his dismission from us Giuing us his reason for it which did for far satisfie us as that upon farr consideration we did agree & conclude to Grant his desire. And for as much as we understand he desireth to joyne with you at Bedford we are well satisfied with it. And do desire you to receive him in the Lord and to Give him a place among you and to walk Christ like & Christ full to him for his spiritual comfort & Edification as A fixed Actual member with ye church at Bedford So Commiting you & your Brethern to ye word of his Grace which is able to Build you up & Give you an Inheritance among them that are Sanctified: we Remaine your Brethern in the Lord, who Subscribe this in the name of ye church at Steventon.

Steventon July 27 1692

Steven Hawthorne
Daniell Nagus

Edw: Bull
Tho: Lawrence
Tho: Lovell

A Record of ye Acts of ye Church 1692

At a Church meeting ye first of September there was Recd into Fellowship with this Congregation our sister Rogers of Bedford there was also Mrs Pilkinton propounded to Relate her Experance at the Next Church meeting:

At a Church Meeting ye 30th of September there was Recd into ye Fellowship of this Congregation & Church of Christ our sister Pilkinton of Bedford

At a Church meeting ye 4 of November there was Received into ye Fellowship of this Congregation our sister Rush & Sarah Ashbourn of Milton

At a Church meeting ye 2 of December there was Received into ye Fellowship of this Church of Christ John Rush Mary Pearse & Rebeca Arter Alias Bonsher

At a Church meeting at Bedford ye 2d day of Febury 1692 there was Recd into the Fellowship of this Congregation our sister Sarah Pryor and Martha Howard

At a Church meeting at Bedford there was Received into Fellowship with this Church of Christ our sister Sara Tinsley and our sister Katherine Bunyan:

1693 At a Church meeting at Bedford this 26th of April 1693 there was Recd into Fellowship with this Church our Brother William Crowsbury: our sister Mary Bigrass of Cotton end and our sister Mary Sayer of Thurly

June 13 At a Church meeting at Bedford ye 27 of June there was Recd into the Fellowship of this Church our Brother William Bedford our Brother John Bunyan our sister Sarah Knight Eliza: Grimes Ann Gates &c and Ledgelands propounded

1693 Mrs Larkinson Goody Cates Eliza Crowter Goody Holding Tho: Smith Mrs Webb and Goody Grey: and at ye same Meeting there was chosen to ye office off Deacons our Brother Nicholas Mayling of Gamblingay and our Brother Thomas Sanssum of Cotton end: and the Church did at ye same time Confirme by there Received there our Bro: John Crowter and our Bro: William Hawkes in the office off Deacons who had officiated upon the call of ye Church for Several years past in that office:

Deacons chosen:

At A Church meeting at Gamblingay there was Recd into the Fellowship of this Church of Christ our sister Webb

August 2 At A Church meeting at Bedford there was Recd into ye Fellowship of this Church of Christ Christian Larkinson sister Cates Eliz: Crowter And Susanna Grey Goody Holding was at ye same meeting Her from Objections about her Conversation [redacted] paul bid

At A Church meeting at Bedford on ye 27 of September 1693: Bro Crowter and Bro: Nichols who were appointed to Visitt the Brethren & Sisters in Bedford were then desired to Give account in what Frame & posture they found them in and Signified that So many as they had been with were in very Good Frame & order

And our Bro: Biggans & brother Starlet Gave ye same Amount of Cotton
End And Bro Cooper & Bro: Humylous who were to Assist the
members at Kempston did signifie ye same of most of them but that there
was one Evill Report of William Wilkis a member of this church and
the church did Appoint Bro: Chandler & Bro: Hawkes to go over and make
further Enquiry in to the business
and those Brethern that objected Against the Receaving of Goody Holding
into Fellowship did there declare they have had Discourse with her and
were very well Satisfied & A Good work of Grace upon her and Agreed
that she be Read into ye Fellowship of this church ye first opportunity
At A church meeting at Cotton end ye 7 of October Sister Holding was
Read in to ye Fellowship of this Church of Christ having Related her
Experance at A Generall church meeting before
At A church meeting at Bedford on ye first of ... there was Read into
the Fellowship of this church our Bro: Benjamin Goodman Junr:
At A church meeting at Gamlingay there was Read into ye Fellowship
of this church of Christ our Sister Katherine Hastings Mary Cage &
Mary Meeks
At A church meeting at Bedford on ye 29 of November there was Read
in to ye Fellowship of this church of Christ Ann Thomas & Elizabeth
Junsey of Cardington
At a Church Meeting at Gamlingay
into the Fellowship of this church of Christ our Brother ... there was Read.
at A Church meeting at Bedford upon ye 27 of December: 1693 there
was Read in to ye Fellowship our Sister Bernadiston Kipsey
and our Sister Wadmoore both of Bedford
At A church meeting at Bedford ye 3d of February 1693 there was Read
in to ye Fellowship of this church Ann Harris & Susana Mansfield
both of Bedford
And at ye same meeting was propounded Richard Stagman
George spurfer Susana Clifton & Goody Hastings
At A Church meeting March 1 there was Red into the Fellowship
of this Church of christ: our Bro: Richard Swetman of Sandy
Susanah Clifton & Sister Hastings Richard Whiteman Martha
Mountaris of Ashwell Sarah Taylor of Biglsworth Goody Spurfeen
of Cardington
At a church meeting at Bedford may 9: 1694 Thomas Wells of
Ypsford within Parish of Cardington Mary Stanton of Northill
and Sarah Hastings of Clifton — was Read in to this Church
of Christ:

04) A Record of ye Acts of ye Church: 1694:

June 27 At a Church meeting at Bedford there was Record into fellowship with this church of Christ one Sister Sawyer of Bedford.
At ye same meeting ye church fell upon admonition to John Horsman by Bro: Barcolph & Bro: Tyler for that after many warnings and Reproofs for the like offence: he Run into Roopish Debts taking no care and not being able to pay them for his being Extravagant in Apparelling his Sons

August 29th At A Church Meeting at Bedford there was received into fellowship wth this Church Jn Javill of Godington Ann Barr of Oakley &
There was also propounded for communion wth this Church Christo: Munns of Bedford, Br Cooper & Br Flint were appointed by the church to inquire of Cho: Kilingworth what were the things whereof he did accuse him & yn to make A report of ye to the Church yt consideration might be had whether they be sufficient to keep the said Christo: from fellowship
There was also propounded for fellowship Tho Rolfe of Cotton End & Br Chandler & Br Pigrave appointed to discourse him about some things at some members were dissatisfyd about & to report to the church yt they may proceed according to rule wth him whether to receive him or not
There was also at the same time propounded in order to admission Robert Bray of Bedford & Mary Coast of Cotton End.
Twas yn Agreed on by the church yt on wednesday being the 10th of October next shoud be A generall Church Meeting of all the parts of the church to pray to God & make A full inquiry into the state of the church & to Labour to fitt all things relating to private members & the church in generall into Gospell order.
At the same Church Meeting Jn Horsman who had been under admonition for Offences, spake something by way of confession but the church not being fully satisfyd, proceedings relating to him were defard till the next Meeting
At the same meeting also Jn Stanton of Bedford who for many years past had for gross failings yn specifyd been cutt off from the fellowship of this church. Made a publick acknowledgments of his sins vindicated the proceedings of the church against him & gave an Account of the gracious dealings of God wth him to his recovery in order to his being restored to his place of wch the church took time to consider till their next meeting.

at Bedford

Sept: 23 At A Church Meeting yn held at Gamlingbay there was received into fellowship Mary Clark, Sarah Baxter, & Sarah Smith.

Octob 10th At A Church Meeting holden at Bedford wch by appointment was A generall Meeting of the whole church from all parts there was an Action Jn Stanton restored to his communion wth this church having the meeting before made A satisfactory Acknowledgt of his sins for wch he was cast out many years agoe.
There was also at the same time A Letter ordered to be sent to Our Brother Chandler of Marlborough to give him A call to our assistance in the work of the Ministry.
At the same Meeting the church took into consideration the want of A Deacon Our Br Hawkes yt was in yt station being removed by death & did Nominate our Br Nichols & Br Bardall for Consideration till ye next Generall Meeting at wch time the church is to determine whether of the two they fix upon.
At the same Meeting Br Sudgo & Br Spencer were appointed to inquire into the state of Oliver Dix withdrawn from long since as also wt failings & the proof of yn if he hath been lately guilty of wch yr are publick rumors & to report the same to the church desiring him to be present
Br Dent at the same Meeting took his place in the church wch for years past he had refused to doe alledging he could not with a quiet mind being preached amongst us but ye Record of the Lord has given him satisfaction

Br Chandler of Marlborough invited to come as an assistant

(85

Br Newman of Wilsted having continued in ye sayd Catchy the dreadfull sin of Drunkenness for wch the Church had withdrawn communion from him formerly & Br Jansum & Br Bigrave were appointed to goe to him & acquaint him therewith & if without further manifestation of repentance & reformation the Church would proceed to cast him out.

At the same Meeting Oliver Phody was reproved for drinking & vaineing yn proved before him wch was in part acknowledged by him but not to satisfaction & was ordered to pray to God for further repentance & the manifestation of wch the church would receive him to full communion &c.

At the same Meeting there were Brethren Appointed to visit the whole church three things in particular being given yn in charge to inquire into first how the work of God goes on in their Souls Secondly whether they are in charity wth all the Members thirdly whether they duly come to the Lords table if not they are to labour to convince yn of their duty & to satisfie yn about it. Br Ffox Br Cropper Br Simpson were appointed for Bedford & parts round Br Fuller-ton & Br Langley for Cotton End & thereabouts Br Mallin & Br Apthorp for Gamlingay & thereabouts

At the same Meeting yr were three Generall Church Meetings in A Yeare appointed.

At the same Meeting An Admonition was ordered to be sent to Sister Honor by the Hands of Br Dent & Br Simpson for her withholding her communion from the church on the Account of Singing at Baptisme those things not being judged sufficient grounds And A Letter was ordered to be sent to Godmanchester not being all Baptized Church to request their dayning her communion till thy Church was satisfyed.

At thy Meeting Christopher Munns & Thos Flowers formerly mentioned for communion were by messengers desired to waite A little time longer yt church not being satisfyed wth the Answarrs returned by those employed to discourse wth Tho: Kildingworth about Christopher Munns, he refusing to give an Account why they cast him out unless we would Acknowledge those wth whom he is to be A church of Christ & wth Tho: Flowers he not giveing yn satisfaction about A Lye yt was charged on him

At the same Meeting were propounded for fellowship our friend Willamot & Shambrook & Ruth Fegg of Biglesware

At the same Meeting Br Kensmans case was defard he being from home

1694 At A Church Meeting yn Holden at Bedford yn were received into fellowship Robert Bray of Bedford & Mary Coast of Cotton End.

cto 31 At the same Meeting Br Kensman was call upon for A farther & more satisfactory acknowledgment of the Evills charged on him wherin he vindicated himself & blamed the churches proceedings wth him as Irregular alledging yt not faults deserve publick Hearing but gross enormityes & Hareyes & he did also reflect on Our Br Chandler wrongfully to the grieveing of the church & the disturbance of the Meeting yt the whole proceedings yt first day were prevented

the 2d n. proposed & received Att A Church Meeting then held at Bedford Alice Clark of Bedford was propounded & received into our same fellowship both at the same Meeting Not as A president for others but because she feared she might be hindred her duty if her Husband heard it.

At the same Meeting the Church sent An admonition to Br Jn Kensman by the Hands of Br Nicholls Br Woodward & Br Shepherd for his failings before charged on him, & for his unbecoming carriage in the last Church Meeting & leaving the Ministry of the church, & were ordered to acquaint him yt if there was not an hearty Acknowledgment of his failing by the next Church Meeting the church would yn withdraw communion from him. * unbecoming

At the same Meeting the Answare of Godmanchester church relating to our sister Honor was given to the church viz yt they should forbare till thy Church were satisfied or concluded wt to do wth her. there was yn A Message sent to Sister honour to desire her to write the churches determination wch should be given the next Meeting wth all lawfull candor & tenderness.

At the same Meeting Tho Flowers was propounded to the Church for Communion there being satisfaction about the thing for wch he being propounded before was defard.

and 9th 4 9 52 At A Church Meeting then held at Bedford yr were received into fellowship Tho: Flowers of Cotton End & Tho: Clark sen: of Bedford.

At the same Meeting George Huckle of Gardington was propounded for Communion

Our Br Geary of Wollaston yt requested thy dismission being too far remote from us, & by reason of distance unable to answare thy relation to us, & wch was granted, declaring thy ordinary wth thy church & yt was only for orders sake yt he desired it it being yt Church of Christ wch our Reverend Br Gifts doth preside in yt he desire to walk wth Honor to receive

The case of our sister was yn confered wth ye above mentioned, & ye church sent the following message to her to answare wch in her circumstances was judged most expedient

Sister Honor

The church yt for many yeares past you have walked wth hath taken yr case into serious consideration & doth think yt ever your objection agt yr continuance of communion is of A sufficient bottom to grant you A formal dismission in writing, but since we wth Baptized believers if wt you say yr Conscience obliges you unto, we as the effect of Mature deliberation return you this answare viz: That we are very well satisfyed wth the principles of our Communion & doe conclude yr judgment is misinformed & you are left to yr liberty tho we could heartily wish your orderly walking wth us.

Br Kensman being at London, Concerns relating to him were defard.

Brother Knott ordered to desire Chive Dine to Attend the Church at the next Meeting to Answare to wt he stands admonish for. The same request renewed to Br Jansum & Br Bigrave relating to Br Newmark

06/1695 1/5

Church acts & proceedings recorded
B^r Bedford preaches

Feb: 6^th At A Church Meeting y^e 6^th at Bedford y^e was propounded for fellowship Anne Spencer of Bedford Tho: Langley of Cotton End & Lewis Britton & Ann Court of Cotton End & Mary Mountain of Bericht

At the same Meeting George Huckle before propounded was received to membership.

The for-request relating to B^r Dic was made to B^r Hunnilow viz^t to desire him to come to y^e next Meeting he not having yet answered the request of the Church Proceedings relating to Jn^o Hensmans failings were ag^n desired to be not being returned, Christopher Blunts thy desire of communion was ag^n mentioned but ag^n laid aside on the dissatisfaction of B^r Ffox & Sister Flint the Brethren were the one objecting thy excommunication from whom he stood related to & the other thy conversation

B^r Bedford is desired to accept his gift

The Church at the same Meeting taking into consideration the decay of Preachers to supply the meetings belonging to us, & concluding y^t our B^r Bedford of Cardington had some gifts, did y^e Conclude on the trial of them & did find it request to him by the hands of B^r Gates & B^r Burgar to prepare to preach before the Church at the next Church Meeting.

At the same Meeting B^r Knot of Gotmgton was desired to acquaint B^r Squire of Ravenden y^t the Church was dissatisfyed w^th thy disorderly walking in not maintaining communion w^th us & did desire thy attendance the next Church Meeting to give thy reasons, or to acknowledge thy fault & promise A reformation otherwise he would deal w^th according to the Rules of christ in thy word.

Card playing disallowed of & the Brethren

At the same Meeting our B^r Robert Bray was accused for playing at cards, but he being by thy Masters business detained from the Meeting, our B^r Chandler B^r Cooper & B^r Ffox were ordered to examine him about thy repentance & if they were satisfyed w^th thy acknowledgment he was y^e to come to the Lords table next Lords day; if not he was to be ordered to appeare before the Church at the next Meeting, the request of the Church was fulfilled & discovering w^th but things being were y^e was known to the Church, & thy acknowledgment not satisfactory to the deputed Brethren, they in the churches name desired thy sitting down at the Lords supper & desired him to come before the Church to answer the Churches expectation of A found unfeigned & hearty repentance of thy great evill, wishing him to be much in prayer to God for A sence of thy wickedness & pardon of it, y^t being not only guilt contracted but reproach to the ways of God by w^t he had done.

March 6^th 1695 There was y^e received into fellowship w^th thy Church Tho: Langley Ann Spencer Ann Court Lewis Britton & Mary Mountain. this Church meeting was held at Bedford

There was y^e propounded for communion Ruth of Cardington & Herring of Bedford & Will^m Meakes Hannah Web Mary Squire & Mary Clark of Gamlingay

Our B^r Jn^o Hensman y^e made an Acknowledgment of thy evills charged on him & it being to the Churches satisfaction was ag^n restored to full communion

Brother Robert Bray was sent to by B^r Cooper to come to y^e next Church meeting to give the Church satisfaction for w^t is above charged on him.

B^r Bedford preaches

B^r Bedford did y^e also preach before the Church for tryal & thy preach was accepted & he desired to preach ag^n at the next general meeting.

Oliver Dic & Tho: Hensman ag^n sent to by y^e former Messengers to come to y^e next Church Meeting to give satisfaction to the Church for their failings y^t are recorded ag^st y^m. — B^r Squire also ordered to appear by B^r Knot.

March 17 At A Church meeting y^e held at Gamlingay y^e was received into fellowship Will Meakes Hannah Web Mary Squire & Mary Clark.

April 3^d 1695 At A Church Meeting y^e held at Bedford our B^r Robert Bray of Bedford came before the Church & made an Acknowledgment of the Evills charged on him, to the satisfaction of the Church & was ag^n restored to full communion

At the same Meeting our B^r Oliver Dic came & made an Acknowledgm^t of thy failing but y^t not being full satisfaction, he was desired to waite fourthwith for the Churches determination, & to look well to thy conversation in the mean time.

Every y^e ordered y^t an admonition should be drawn up & sent to our B^r Squire for thy not taking notice of thy relation to y^e church after frequent messages sent him to come amongst us, as also for thy unscriptural conversation.

Wife Ruth, before propounded, y^e gave in her experience but not giving satisfaction about her dissenting from the Church of England, her reception was deferd till she should, & y^e the Church agreed to receive her upon a new declaration of Experience.

Hazring was propounded y^e meeting before, but y^e being sundry members dissatisfyed w^th her Conversation she was not admitted to declare her Experience

A Generall Church Meeting of the whole Church was appointed the 5^th of May next.

Hannah Bain A member of the Church of Christ at Newport was received to transient communion w^th this Church by vertue of A letter recommendatory from y^t Church w^ch y^e as followes

To the Church of Christ in Bedford whereof Mr Chandler is Pastor.
Beloved in the Lord. Whereas our sist[r] Hannah Davis the bearer hereof is for the present amongst you, who hath walked in Church fellowship with us according to the order of the Gospel on her desire, we recommend her to you for occasionall communion praying you in the Lord to admit her to y[e] participation of the blessed ordinance of the Lords Supper w[th] you
We commit her & you to y[e] care of the Lord living in time yours in Gibbs Pastor
Tho: Kent
in Mathew.

At the same Meeting the Church did appoint A Light of all the Members now living to be brought in, in writing y[e] next Church Meeting, & did for y[e] purpose appoint persons suitable viz Br Cooper & Br Kimmilove for Bedford & adjacent places Br Scarlet Br Sanquin Br Fisher for Cotton End & thereabouts Br Sandys at Biddenham & Wyndham Br Aylwood for Cotton Gamlingay & those parts.
At the same Meeting Mrs Wyat of Thurley was propounded for Communion & y[e] four persons below
At A church Meeting at Gamlingay was received into fellowship Catherine Blodwell Mary Chase Mary Jenkins, Mary Phillips also stood propounded for the same mystery from
At A church Meeting y[e] before at Bedford, our Br Bedford according to their churches order did agree preach for Infall, & his gift being very well accepted the Church did desire him to preach to those Meetings belonging to that Church w[ch] necessity did require, & to have not yet put time forth to preach constantly, considering his youth & y[t] was requisite he should have time for study before he y constantly ingaged in y[e] work
At the same Meeting the case of the Poor & Members of the Church being considered was ordered y[t] there be gathering once a month at Bedford amongst Cotton End
At the same Meeting also the Church requested Br Nicholls (According to A proposall maide the 10th of October last) to take the office of Deacon on him & to desire till the next Church Meeting, to consider of it & y[e] to return his answare.
At the same Church Meeting it was agreed on y[t] what [illegible] Fryday afternoone & the houly instant be spent in prayer by the Church in the several parts of it for the the things following viz: on the Account of the small Pox wch being to prevaile in the town, for our sister Carter who for A Long time hath been sorely afflicted w[th] the same, for our sister Hawkins & Elizabeth Butterfield both under great distress & temptation even to dispair the last [illegible] stood in her finders, & also for the children of the Members of the Church y[t] God would convert you by his grace, & for the Conversion of sinners & for the Church to y[e] purity & Lastly for the best his Temple & the Ministry of the Church to y[e] power & for y[e] Nation, y[t] the Gospell w[th] its blessings & peace might be continued to it & for y[e] interest of Christ in the world.
The small Pox prevailing in Bedford the Church appointed A Church Meeting at Cotton End on this day y[e] 26th where was received into fellowship Robert Butcher of Biddenham, who w[th] his wife & Eliza: his wife & Joseph Carr & Eliza: his wife & Lydia Brightland, all five of Biddenham, were propounded the last day we broke Bread preceeding & Chapter
At the Church Meeting y[e] held at Cotton End for the Above named reasons were received into fellowship Mrs Hawkes Christ: Smith & Eliza: his wife Joseph Carr & Eliza: his wife & Lydia Brightland. At the same Meeting Joseph Carr & his wife was propounded it being the request of his Mother & y[e] former was received tho not before propounded it being the request of his Mother & y[e] former was received tho not before propounded it being the request of his Mother & y[e] former was received tho not before

Church Acts & Proceedings Recorded

1694

October 4

At A church Meeting ~~by~~ ye Elders at Bedford the Election of A Deacon was deferd till ~~the generall meeting by reason of the Inviable Love~~ ~~the generall Meeting they Judg now fitt~~ There was also ~~one~~ propounded for Communion Ann Herring of Bedford — twas ye Ordered yt A day of prayer be set apart to seek to God for thy town ~~by reason~~ the Inviable Love raying amongst us — Christo: Mans was here propounded Leave was ye granted to Mr Bingley & thy wife to have occasionall communion wth us being members wch ~~of~~ Mr Throp Br Chandler & Br Nicholls having dis= =coursed ye & received satisfaction touching A work of grace in ym. Twas ye concluded on yt Br Chandler & Br Dent if at home or otherwise Br Crocker goe as Messengers to Charlton they having sent to us for assistance wch Letter ye was followeth —

Decr 12

At A church Meeting ye 3rd at Bedford Ann Herring was received into fel= =lowship — Kath: Spencer ye came before the church according to order & confest that sin she had been guilty of & gave an account of the good hand of God to her in recovering her from her fall to the churches satisfaction — Her Sister Christ: Mans was agn debate, our Br Kent & Br Kingsman objected agst him the former alledging his excommunication from the Church & was related to & his railing agst Rich Davill the latter his ill conversation & for peace sake the church consented to put him by for A time tho' not fully satisfied wth the objections

The Election of A Deacon was deferd till A generall Meeting the meetings being now fixed by reason of the Inviable Love

There was ye propounded for fellowship Rich Savill & Ann Beck of Carding= =ton Parish Buckle of Henlake Wid Willshire of Bedford.

1695 Feb 6

At A church Meeting held at Bedford ye was propounded for fellowship An Hawking & ~~Sara~~ Sarah Carter & Br Benj: Goodmans wife & Sarah Hawinch & Sarah Carter At the same Meeting ye was received into fellowship, Sarah Carter An Beck Rich Savill Wm Silsburch & Steven Huckle

Dismission against Baptist= church refused

At the same Meeting our Br Mans Letter for A dismission was read but being de= =sired to A Baptized Congregation he was denyed & an Answare to be sent of our Br Chandler was to write & send it.

Br Bedford & Br Chandler appointed to acquaint the Baptist case formerly mentioned was agn proposed but the church declined receiving her unless she could give satisfaction about her nonconformity to the church of England. ——

The request of Several persons about Carlton & Jurors whose names are Lewis Spencer John Knot Joseph Hardick Thz: Rod Hughs Bithray James Rod & Thz: Bithray. relating to their coming into fellowship was

1696 B^r Bedford's assistance, desired by the Church at Spaldwick especially
Ye 6 & B^r Cooper appointed to gather a few days.

mentioned to the church & the church concluded on the answare to draw & sent unto
by our B^r Chandler yt yr were other churches nearer of they might have returnd an
& better answare to this of it yt^n w^ch ys & did yf^or advice to close w^th yne
m^r King having recomended two of his members to us for transient communion they
consented to by the church having received satisfaction bt to approved the congrega-
tionall principles, & yt they two Persons mary ward, & Ann Bately were of
godly conversations &c

March 2 1695 6 At A church Meeting yn held at Bickford yt was resolvd into fellowship Sarah Hewick &
Elizabeth Goodman & Elizabeth Endersby & yn also spake her experience but yr was some dissatis-
faction in some Members concerning her & yf^or her reception was deferd till the
next church Meeting. † At the same time James wale was propounded & the church
being satisfied w^th his godly conversation was permitted to speake his experience
w^ch he did to great satisfaction & was received into fellowship Thursday he received
At the same Meeting there was request yt Ann Hawkins yt stood propounded but of some
some dissatisfaction about her B^r Chandler B^r Nicholls & B^r Crocker were appointed
to discourse her & sister from about Matters & report yn to the church the next Meeting
At the same Meeting some of the good People of Spaldwick came to request the church of
our B^r Bedford might for the present supply their Meeting & accordingly the Church
granted leave to him to goe for four Lords dayes

At the same Meeting B^r Taylor & B^r Matthews were sent as Messengers to our B^r
White & B^r Holmes of Kimpston to inquire into the reasons why they do not walk
w^th the church & make A report next Meeting

There was also B^r Chandler B^r Nicholls B^r Woodward & B^r Crocker appointed to hear & to
reconcile A difference betwixt B^r Greyland & his wife on the one part & Sister Baroutte
B^r Knott & B^r Medbury were agn sent to B^r Squire to require him to attend the church
Next Meeting to give the reasons of his Apostacie & threatning from the church
& to tell him if he did not come the church would send an admonition to him.

There was also propounded for fellowship Mary Cobett & Thomas Thorogood.

April 6 1696 At A church Meeting yn held at Bedford Eliza: Wyat & Mary Cooch were admitted
into fellowship the church did yr also agree to receive Jos Bunt who formerly
related her experience but her admission, as yet did till she gave satisfaction
to the church about her non-compliance w^th the Church of England, w^ch being
given was concluded to receive her next Meeting.

There was at the same Meeting propounded for fellowship Robert Mountaine John Bryor
Tho: Hubbard John Hitchcock Kath^e Ely & Martha Williams &c

The case of Elizabeth Endersby was again mentioned but yr not having been the appointed
discourse betwixt her & the Members satisfyed the Church did waive her
reception till B^r Chandler B^r Nicholls B^r Woodward & B^r Crocker should go over
to Stukeley & discourse w^th her & the rest dissatisfied & if it was satisfaction
given & received about her the Church did conclude thereafter B^r Nicholls should declare
her A Member of the church but her formale reception was to be before till
next church Meeting

Thomas Thorogood propounded the last church Meeting for fellowship & since discourse
the difference betwixt B^r Greyland & his wife & sister Barbe & Chichester was
by the appointed B^rn reconciled.

The People of Spaldwick did make another request to the church of our B^r Bedford might
be wholly set apart to the ministry & resigned to remove their Ministry, w^ch was deny
yn our own necessitys calling to send for his continuance amongst us, they there
requested A supply for four days more w^th the church granted viz 6 of April 10^th
May, 17^th May & 31 of may two of w^ch B^r Bedford was to supply & the other B^r Cooper
or some other preaching Brother. B^r Bedford was also appointed to go the thanksgiving
The church principle as lyes in the account of the Churches first gathering & B^r Gifford
Epistle to the Church was read & by the church still approved & agreed to be maint.
as what is agreeable to gods word

B^r Knott & B^r Medbury were appointed to go to B^r Squire as above having
desired it the last time

90

1696

[illegible] being A generall Church Meeting the church again requested our Br Nicholls to accept of the office of A Deacon, & he did so far comply to the churches request as to engage in the office by way of tryall, the church promising him yt if after some time of Experience the found he could not discharge his duty, either satisfactorily unless he found or excused actuall settlement & another chosen they also promised yt he should have a seasonable supply of Money for the exercise of his work & duty in yt place

Our Br Coomes & Br Cummings were yn called upon to produce the list of the Lords Members in & about Bedford others having delivered theirs but they had omitted taking out & were therefore desired to get out ready by next Meeting Br Taylor & Br Mathews were againe appointed to go to Br Johnson & Br Holmes of Kempston to desire them to attend the church next Meeting to give the Reason of their withdrawing communion from the church

No 15 Three yn proposed to Br Bedford be taken off from his School & maintained by the church as he was before within the Limits of the Church in the Ministry The church took time till the next Meeting to consider of it

Mr Larkins his request of communion was again mationed but the church not being satisfied in the reasons of his separation from the church of England did decline complying with him till he should give satisfaction about it

It was then agreed & promised to be on the 29th of Aprill because Elder Taylor could be present at their usuall day.

29 Aprill At A church Meeting yn held at Bedford yn was received into fellowship Root Fountaine The Mead John Bryor Tho: Cutler Martha Williamson & Katherine Cerby & Alice Bull Hubbard & the differences between the Lord & the objecting members being adjusted by the Lords Brethren — John Kilcock before propounded was desired having been guilty of some carriage at A Lecture not fit to be mentioned in the Gospell, & yt since he was propounded.

There was propounded for communion Tho: Wells Ruth Elizabeth Simons & Mary Walker

The request of our sister Hankins now at London about sitting down with Mr Alsop was proposed & was concluded the first to march into yt A Congregational Church to walk with

Bishop was a Presbyter The church yn ordered An Admonition to be sent to Tho: Squire, for his not coming to give the church the reason of his withholding communion from the church tho he hath been oft sent to.

Br White & Br Holmes of Kempston came & gave the church an Account of their readiness to take their places if yr was Liberty for yn & it appearing yt the Members about yn had nothing materiall against them, they were desired so to do.

8 July At A church Meeting yn held at Bedford yr was received into fellowship Tho: Wells Mary Walker & Francis Veale the latter was not propounded before but for many years known to walk as becomes the Gospell the church being for some time of the Tho: spoke his Experience with the doing to great satisfaction & was received propounded the same Meeting Mary Cole Katherine Marsh

8 July Elizabeth Clayton

Received into fellowship Ruth Mary Cole & Joane Marsh, The Wednesday Fortnight was set apart for prayer by the church for the success of the Gospell the prosperity of the church the children of the church & the Walker was by mutuall consent of the church

Eliz: Fisher A Member of Mr Sheppard of Cambridge received by transient communion by the recommendation of yt church

Sister Hankins requested to sit down with Mr Alsop, because of her weakness, & she was left to her liberty because how A Presbyterian & of her necessity

There was propounded also Tho: Crocker Mary Robins Hannah Smith

Elder Taylors reception was deferred because of Sister Baccars dissatisfaction

1696

2 persons recommended from other Churches to give in their Experiences in order to be joined to this Church

Sept 14th At A church Meeting ye 14th at Bedford, ye [illegible] was received into fellowship Tho: Crocker Eliz: Simons whose Relation was defrd before the Coming at London, Mary Robins Hannah Smith & Mary Crocker ~~the~~ who viz Mary Crocker was A Member w^th y^e Vniversity of London but being by him recommended to us was received by giving in her Experience, Hannah Smiths case was the same formerly A Member w^th y^e Ind^s & recommended to us gave in her experience also.

Christo: Mans his case was ag^n Mentioned & y^e Nicholls B^r Woodward & B^r Crocker were appointed to discourse & reconcile our Sister Flint & him in order to his reception next meeting if ye be full satisfaction.

The next church Meeting appointed to be on Monday the 12 Octo: in general

A Church Meeting also appointed to be at Gamlingay for the Lords Supper on the 18th of Octo:

Octo 21st The Generall church Meeting yt was appointed to have been on the 12th instant was defrd till this day by reason of the floods yt would have hindred our Members coming & at this Meeting was concluded to have the Lords Supper at Potton End the 8th Nov: At this Meeting A list of all living Members was brought in according to A former church Order

It was ye agreed & determined yt certain B^rn should visit the whole church & give in their account in a twelve Months time B^r Nicholls B^r Woodward & B^r Crocker Appointed to ye work in Bedford — B^r Farnham & B^r Scarlet for Potton End & parts adjacent B^r Malin & B^r Gidding for Gamlingay & those parts

ye — B^r Hensman case was also mentioned he not having acknowledged the Crimes formerly charged on him & he being present, after some debate it was agreed yt the matter be refrd to A private discourse at B^r Chandlers thy night B^r Nicholls B^r Crocker B^r Woodward to be present, w^ch was done & he acknowledged to satisfaction so yt his way is plain to be set down w^th the Church

Christo: Mans his case was ag^n mentioned but yt was not as yet A full reconciliation between him & our Sister Flint, & our B^r Hen was dissatisfyed also because

M^r Davis's al Rowell Christo: was formerly cast out from another People, to whom he ought as he Alledged return by Archbishops Injunct, but the church was satisfyed yt the proceeding of that People he belonged to were rash & ungrounded nevertheless to prevent any difference in the church it was agreed yt his case be drawn up in writing & sent to M^r Gibbs & M^r Wilson for their advice. before the church proceeds any farther in this Affair. he was so in accordance, Jan. 1695

There was propounded for fellowship ~~Millard~~ David Millard & Ann Goodman B^r Bigrave & B^r Scarlett were appointed to go to B^r Newman & to know he was & to lay his sin before him.

B^r Read & B^r Cox were appointed also to go to B^r Ward B^r Hawkins Sister Hobbs & Sister Williams all of Potton to inquire how stood to the church why they did not take their privilege of communion & to desire ye so to do.

B^r Jn Merill & B^r Jho: Kilby were appointed to go to B^r Rhodes & to inquire after repentance for his drinking & dancing & to bid him come to the church — & also to Sister Harrill alias Cooper to admonish her abt going to the Publick & to bid her come before the church

November 23 At A Church Meeting ye 23 at Bedford David Millard & Ann Goodman did relate their experience & it being to the Churches satisfaction they were received into fellowship —

There was propounded for fellowship M^rs Freeman & Brown, Sarah Neighbours & Missions deferd till the next church Meeting &

The Church did appoint A private collection to be made thereof the Church was [illegible] for our B^r Bidford

Feb 8th At A Church Meeting at Bedford Rich Rhodes was propounded for Fellowship

March 8th At A church Meeting held at Bedford Sist Thody gave in hir Experience to the church but it not being to satisfaction hir admission was deferd there was also propounded for fellowship Jho: Nichols & Jho: Hollingworth. There was also several hours spent in prayer by the churches appointed the 18th of March twice about church affaires yt we might have Gods presence & blessing & our decayed Love to one another revived yt we might walk as Brn — at the same Meeting the ~~eight~~ fourth of April was appointed for A Generall Church Meeting at Bedford to inquire into & to regulate the Disorders of the Church — Sist Hawkins also requested communion but the Church not being satisfyd ~~thereof~~ thy being propounded was deferd.

April 1697

April 7th At A generall church Meeting yn held at Bedford Jho: Nichols & Jho: Hollingworth before propounded did relate their Experience but there not being satisfaction received their reception was deferd & Br Nichols Br Woodward & Br Crocker & Br ~~Sister~~ Chandler were appointed to Discourse yn farther & make A report thereof to the church.

yn

Jtem yn agreed on also yt all persons for the future yt are admitted to fellowship do Explicitely declare their approbation of & do give up yn selves upon the stated principle of the church viz Faith in Christ & holiness of life tho yr be different Apprehensions in Circumstantiales or Externalls.

Jtem yn also agreed on yt yt day forthright be set Apart as a solemn day of prayer to begin at Nine of the clock & hold till three. & the things to be spread before the Lord in prayer are as followeth

1st yt the work of God might be revived amongst us

2ly yt yr might be a recovery of Love one to another yt our communion might be more profitable & more hearty.

3ly yt the Lord would bless the word preached amongst us for conversion

4thly yt the Lord would shew mercy to the children of the church

5thly yt decayed & Cold Members might be recovered

6thly yt Mercy might be given to the Nation & the interest of christ

7thly yt the Lord would be pleased to send rain the season having been very dry

wch last tho not agreed on at this meeting yt was thought expedient to add when the day came thy day was to be kept at Bedford Colten End Blunham & Gamlet

May 12 At A church Meeting yn held at Bedford the four deputed Brn gave an Act of the Conference they had wth Jho: Nichols & Jho: Hollingworth yt it was to their satisfaction in wch the church did acquiesce & they were yn received into fellowship accordingly

Willamot who for years past stood propounded but could not At the Same A Church Meeting to be received spoke her Experience on the Last Lords day the church had the Lords Supper & it being to satisfaction she was received into communion.

There was also propounded for communion Anne pryor wife to our Br Jn pryor of Bregon.

There was A report also made to the church of our Sister Barfoot of Blunham yt she pretended to A spirit of prophesy & had predicted Several strange unscripturall things as yt the church would suddenly be broke or in her own words yt the head & Body meaning Pastor & People should be seperated & lye & Dead & other things not fit to be mentioned &c & the church on consideration thereof & her whitenes did Account Br ~~Sister~~ ~~Barfoot~~ ~~& Br Christo. Smith~~ to go to her & desire her attendance

the next church Meeting to give satisfaction abt these things or else yr
would be A proceeding agst her according to the Lawes of christ. viz by admon
nition & withdrawing communion from her.

June 7th

At A church Meeting held at Bedford Jos: Mann was propounded for Communion
At the same Meeting Ann Pryor & Eliz: Brown gave in their Experience
& it being to the satisfaction of the church they were received as Members
At yt time it was also agreed on that the 16th instant being Wednesday be
kept as A day of prayer upon the same acct yt the last day of prayer was
kept wch particulars are recorded on the last page only wth this addition yt whereas
as Our Br Bedford hath preached for two yeares past occasionally & necessity
called him by the churches consent & it hath been wth acceptation & to ad
vantage the church now is come to this conclusion yt he be fully impow
-ered to preach the Gospell where providence shall call him & yrfore we
conclude yt this be one part of our work in prayer to implore the
Lords help & assistance for him & his blessing upon his Labours.

yr Predfac
ventrous law a
Preache

Br Tho: Hodson being last saturday & one before abt a month past much
overtaken wth drink publickly to the dishonour of God reproach of Religion
griefe of his Brn & to the Guilting of his own conscience A message was
sent to him on the Lords day by the hand of our Br Tho Langley to
desire his attendance on the church to give satisfaction by confession
& repentance for this his sin but he denying his crime charged on
him & not appearing the church in faithfulness to christ & his soul
appointed Br Randall Crayler & Br James Mathews as their Messengers to
him wth an admonition wch admonition is as followeth

Br Hodson

1 Corny 6:11: ch v 9 & galatians 5:21

You being last saturday & one before abt a month past as was sufficiently
-ly proved to us at our Meeting this 7th of June guilty of the sin of drunke
-ness to the publick reproach of the Gospell you profess & to the griefe
of yor Brn yt desire yor soule welfare & to yor own guilt & shame
& also denying to our Br Tho: Langley yor last drunkenness for the
which you have been admonished by him in the name of the
Church of christ yet you relate to us yor faithfulness to christ & yor soul
do by these our Brn find this our Gospell admonition to you for
yt sin Expecting yt you will confesse & contrition & repentance
for it to be publickly made & manifested to us at our next Church
Meeting wch is appointed to be at Bedford on the fifth day of the
next week yt sin being Publick & scandalous, yt you may be restored
& continued in yor membership & communion wth us but if you do not
fall under this yor sinners sin & give ye church satisfaction abt yor
repentance you must expect yet more severe censures from us yt
yor flesh may be destroyed & yor spirit saved in the day of the Lord
yt you may be convinced of yor sin & the warrantablenes of our
proceedings wch you turn to these quotations of Scripture in the Margt

1 Corinth 5 ch 11 vers
Ephes 11
1 Thessa
3 Titus 10.
1 Corinth 5 ch 11
2 Thess 3 - 6 - 14
1 Cor 5 - 5

Signed by me in the name of the church
Eliz: Chandler Pastor

The Brn yt saw our Br Hodsons drunkenness & testifies it to the Church
were our Br Chandler Br Bedford Br Crayler Br Mathews & Br Sth
Uncle by former commission of the same sin was testified by our
Rich Whitehead whose servant was informed of it by Br Hodsons son in law

94)
1697

At the same Meeting our Sister Bar of Blunham according to the Churches Message attended but did not give satisfaction abt the things charged on her tho she acknowledged her self deluded yet still retained her sentiments of the was endowed wth A Spirit of prophesy & ~~[illegible]~~ ation did evade & turn another matter what she had predicted, she was after charged to pray to God to convince her of her evil in such pretentions & wisely to decline same & to give the Church satisfaction next Meeting.

Br Fisher was also requested to make inquiry after Anna Thorogood of Gamlingay concerning communion wth us, & the Church not knowing of

At the same Meeting several persons in & abt Colton came & requested the Church, yt we would release our Br Bedford to go yt he might settle wth us & preach the Gospel & be called to office among us of wch the Church took time to consider, & yn they requested yt he might come sometimes to preach amongst us to wch answer was promised next Saturday.

Liberty to sing in the morning.

Our Br Chandler did yn move yt himself & those of his principle might have Liberty to sing the praises of God in the morning of the Lords days or rather in the afternoon & at all times when he should see it was willing so to do. yn being full Liberty for the practice of it in all other parts of the Church, & after some debate it was consented to by the Church in General.

July 2nd

At A Church Meeting yn held at Bedford Christopher Munns was received into Fellowship wth Gibbs & yt Wilson having given it as their Judgements yt we ought to receive him notwthstanding his former relation to the other People of wch former records mention — Joseph Man was also received —

At the same Meeting yn was propounded Ann Thorogood & Mary Harvey Br Fisher having received A good report of her.

At the same Meeting Br Fisher inform'd the Church at London's request for A dismission was mentioned to the church, yt she whom amongst us not having walked wth us Long disquieted abt singing of Psalms, was agreed yt A Letter be sent to her to require A manifestation of her repentance for her former carriage before A dismission be granted her.

At the same Meeting the People of Colton attended the Church abt our Brother Bedfords coming to yn as before & also several from Gamlingay of our own p[illegible] requested his coming to their assistance & some also from thence brought A Letter of request from the Church yt we would send him to yn our Lot fall for half A year in order to his settling amongst yn wch Letter is as followeth —

Which was done June 29. 1697.

Br Bedford's Letters requested by the People at Colton, Gamlingay & Shefford.

1697

there came three severall messengers to make this matter difficult & yet non
appeared wch deferred a day of prayer appointed the 4th 2d instant to seek
to god for counsell in this Weighty affaire.
The case of Tho Holden was differed he not being present tho he promised the
Messengers he would say nothing extraordinary the ensueing
The Answer of Sister Barr not wholy satisfactory to her former charge tho
not totally declining her profession to A Spirit of prophecy she was desired
to consider of it till next Meeting time to give it in, wch if she & nothing
less would satisfie the Church y^t A Solemn renouncing such unscriptural notions
the next Church Meeting was appointed to be at Bedford the 14th of July
At the day of prayer above mentioned Sarah Worlidge was propounded for
communion.
At A Church Meeting y^e 2d at Bedford Ann Cherogood Mary Harvey & Sar:
Worlidge were received into fellowship
At the same Meeting the case of our Brother Bedford was considered & the result
was y^t the call of our Bro^r att Gamlingay was the Lowest & they declared y^t
he should go & preach among yu, affording assistance at Bedford the dayes of
Breaking of Bread & at other times as necessity.
Tho Holden not appearing Bro^r Sanham & Bro^r Scarlet were appointed
to go to him y^t y^e church need wait on time the next meeting —
& if he did not y^n appear & manifest his repentance he should pro=
=ceed according to the rules of christ.
Sister Barr being restored to full communion was ag^d desired she not giving
satisfaction.
The next church Meeting was appointed for A general Meeting to be held
at Bedford the 4th of Octo next.
At A church Meeting y^e 4th at Bedford Tho: Holden came & Acknowledged his
sin charged on him by the church, but denyed y^t time of drunkenness y^t Bro^r Whitman
gave Evidence of Bitterness & his repentance being
satisfactory he was restored to full communion.
It was y^n also concluded y^t Bro^r Freeman who desires prayers for comunion have
liberty to speake her experience to some Bren in private she not being able
to speake before the church by reason of her fits. but not as A president for
future practice. the days appointed to discourse her if the 2d instant
Sister Barr y^e 2d publickly acknowledge what was charged on her & totally
renounced what she pretended to as prophecying & it being to the Churches satis=
=faction she was restored to her place
Mrs Shepard of Kempston now A Member & Jn Grenwood was propounded
to the Church it being by with Jn Grenwoods consent.
Tho Brown of Bmmeam was also propounded for fellowship.
Jones y^e agreed y^t Brigdon of Bedford speake her experience next
Church Meeting if Bro^r Thompsons dissatisfaction be removed. he was y^t before
desired to take A Bro^r w^th him & y^e Difference w^th her in order to it.
The case of our Bro^r Mans thy wife was y^n also mentioned who was formerly
A Member w^th Jn Grenwood but dismissed to the People under Tho Killingworth
before Tho killingworth was amongst yu, & soon after her being placed
among yu received such dissatisfaction abt Doctrine & practice & w^ch now
from you & hath continued At a distance from you now three years. &
professes y^t she cant w^th satisfaction to her conscience returne to you &
hath oft asked her dismission from you but withstood. she y^refore desir
their Church Meeting & to go to you & ask her dismission, but if she
cant procure it they you to ask it of Tho: Killingworth & others of y^r
Church Meeting on the churches being satisfyed w^th her experience
in private & if it be denyed her yu y^t she be received w^th us nex.
The Lords Supper was differd for the advantage of eight nights till the 2d
Lords day in Nov^r & yu to begin our Publick Meeting at nine in the
Morning & at twelve at Noon y^t our Country Members may have liv
to go home. the Church Meeting appointed to be the wednesday following

Sermons to begin at
Winter at the
time of nine
& twelve &c.

96
1697

16 Nov

At A church Meeting ye 16th at Bidford An Hawkins was received into communion her experience being satisfactory & the differences being reconciled betwixt Sarah our sister ffen.
Jno: Brawne of Broom came also received into fellowship.
Our Br Nichols & Br Crocker & Br Chandler according to appointment declared w^th the reasons they received satisfaction abt her grace, but some Bre not being satisfied abt her having A liberty to hear A godly sound Church-Man preach A sermon occasionally her reception was deferd tho she promised to stand by her rather to suffer ye comply w^th her national worship.
Goody Crighton was agn put by ye being dissatisfaction in several.
Br Munns his wife not having had an opportunity to do as formerly desired was desired to endeavour it by next Meeting but if it could not be effected by yt time ye church resolved to receive her.
The next Meeting appointed to be the 9th of December.

9 Dec:

At A church Meeting ye 9th at Bedford our sister Munns was received into fellowship w^th the joynt approbation of the Church.
Br Brayes wife is also propounded for communion & Mary Easterfield, the next Church Meeting to be on the 3d of Feb:

9 Feb:

At A Church Meeting ye 9th at Bidford Mary Easterfield was received into fellowship & Sarah Martin propounded. the next Church Meeting appointed to be the 30th of March

30 March 1698

At A church Meeting ye 30th at Bidford sister Sarah Martin was received into Communion the fifth day of next Month is appointed to be A day of prayer for the revivall of the Decayed state of the Church. Sister Smith of Bedford was also propounded for communion there being A strong complaint made of our sister Bar for her continued disturbance by her pretended spirit of prophecy she was withdrawn from till the majority be repentance the 27th day of April next was appointed for A Generall Church Meeting in Bedford

April 27

At A church Meeting ye 27th at Bidford sister Judith Sheppard was received into fellowship Information was given to the Church yt our sister Mary Gates had Married A Carnall Man. & yt tho she was (besyde the strict prohibition of the word of God) charged to the contrary by her Parents & God of the greatness of the Evill by our Br Chandler & by him Earnestly & prest to decline it.
Then was ye[re]fore an admonition appointed to be sent to her by the hands of our Bre Will Purser & Will Careless. w^ch is as followes

One committed for marrying carnall person.

Sister Gates:
A Person of whom We understand yt you lately gave yor self in Marriage to ye is no proofe as we can hear to hope yt yr is A work of grace wrought in him, or so much as an Inclination to yt w^ch if savingly good & yt this was expressly contrary to the repeated intreatys & perswadjons & before consent of yor Parents to whose lawfull Commands & advice you were by the law of nature bound to hearken as well as A direct breach of the rule of Gods word of one w^th Sin together w^th the many evills attending such A marriage you were plainly informed aforehand by our Br Chandler. this Action of yrs we deem to be highly offensive to God a reproach to his name as well as A grievous, being in its self & circumstances contrary to these Scriptures in the Margin w^ch we desire you w^th most serious thoughts to consider for yor conviction. you having given up yor self to sin in the sight of God to walk as the word of God directs We look on our selves bound for this yor sin in faithfullness to christ & yor own soul & to our selves left by our Lord & Saviour we bring on our selves the displeasure of God to admonish you of this yor great Evill & have therefore sent these our Bre on this our Errand & Request yor repentance & the Manifestation of it to us in order to vindicate the wayes of christ & for the Spiritual Good & our future comfortable communion w^th you or else you may Expect to hear of us in A more severe Manner, our prayers are going for you & this Admonition may be Effectuall to recover you & yt the Lord would avert those dreadfull Effects yt others have felt on the like transgression.

Eph: 1
2 Cor 20
Corinth
1 - 14 15
Corinth
- 39
Rev 17
Corinth
- 32

signed by me in the Churches Name E. Chandler

given at our church Meeting
the 27th of April 98

The next Church Meeting was appointed to be in Bidford the first Wednesday in June

1 June — At A church Meeting ye 1st at Bedford Mrs Smith was received into fellowship & Jurnin
propounded for fellowship

At the same Meeting the 9th of thy instant June was appointed as A day for solemn
fasting & prayer abt the state of the Church at yt may be A revivall of gods work
in the midst of us & our communion may be more advantagious to us.
Information was ye given agst the Hodges & Wife Newman of they both had been
notoriously guilty of the sin of drunkenes & yt was time latest to consider what
the church ought to do wth ym whether to excommunicate ym forthwth or otherwise
in the more ordinary way of previous admonition, till the next church Meeting
& thy way to be part of the subject of the day of prayer wch was appointed to
begin at nine in the morning & continue till three in the afternoon.
Newman
The church was ye informed yt one Sr Mo: Faithfull was like to marry
A Carnall woman & did appoint Br Chandler & Br Crocker to go to him & labor
to convince him of the evill of it & dissuade him from proceeding in it
At A church Meeting ye 8th at Bedford this spring Elizabeth Fitchmarsh Mary Butcher & Robt
Bratford was propounded & Francis Jurnin received into fellowship
29 June — The 13th July was appointed as A day of prayer to pray yt ye Lord would revive his work
amongst us & give direction in ye affairs to church proceedings particularly the cutting
Newman — of Br Hodges & Br Newman wch was concluded to be done at next Meeting.
Sister Walker being complained of the disorderly walking of Sister Walker & her son
Hubbert the latter having played at Shuffle-Board Br Nicholls Br Crocker & Br Chandler
were appointed to go to ym & desire their attendance next Meeting
Br Gates was desired to acquaint our Sist: Mary Gates to Attend the church Meeting she
being under admonition for A sinfull Marriage & disobedience to her parents yt
Sist: Barr was agn desired to keep from the Lords Supper till satisfaction be made.
abt wch she was formerly charged wth.
Julian Browne on her acknowledging her ill carriage towards the church formerly
in withdrawing from the church on the account of praying & being now removed to
London was dismissed to mr Traile
Sister Thorowgood sitting down wth the: Killingworth was desired by our Br Sister
to forbear it being contrary to the consent of the church
7o Aug — At A church Meeting ye 3d held at Bedford Robt Bratford Ann Spring & Mary Butcher
were received into fellowship. Martha Fitchmarsh was deferred yt not being
satisfaction in former Member abt her life.
The accommunication of the two Brn was deferred yt not being a thorow enquiry
in the church abt it till next meeting wch was determined to proceed if yt
was not found manifestation of repentance yt should conclude to A longer
forbearance of patience & Br Nicholls Br Crocker & Br Chandler were appointed
to go to ym in the Mean time.
Sister Walker & her son not attending & differences arising
Hubbert & her
between ym & our Members yrabouts the three abovenamed Brn were appointed
to go over & hear, & if possible accommodate Matters wherein they
The next Meeting was appointed to be at Bedford the 28th Septr: ytto be A general
Meeting.
29 Sept — At A church Meeting ye 1st at Bedford Eliz: Stocks was propounded for fellowship
The case of the two Brn was agn considered yt the church took time till next
meeting to come to A conclusion yr being some prospect yt the Hodges ym may
make good Acknowledgment. how determined. to which no longer ye next mee
& ye conclude wt to do wth ym. ye 4th was a day of prayer appointed to be
held at Bedford the 19th of October next on their account, & the other concern
of the church
Br Sister was agn appointed to go to Sist: Thorowgood & desire her to desist
maintaining communion wth the: Killingworth.
— Nov — At A church Meeting ye 1st at Bedford Eliz: Stocks was received into the Comm.
Sist Deane formerly A Member of this church cast out for Witchcraft sent A letter to
church to desire ye to renew their fealtie but the church concluded not to com
wth out good testimony of thy repentance & Becoming conversation from the hands of
some worthy christians in London & ordered A letter to be sent him signed by
seaven Brn
It was concluded to write to Br Hodges & Br Newman till next Meeting &
Nicholls Br Mills & Br Chandler appointed to go to the first to see how
he was.

98
1698

Br Bedford invited to Royston — leave to Gamlingay —
Br Freeman dismissed from Br Gibbs church at Request to this church at Gamlingay

Dec: 28 At A church Meeting ye 28th at Bedford Br Nichols Br Muns & Br Kumlow were appointed to go to Br Holden ye not being yet an unanimity to cast him out made a report of their visitt yt they could discern no repentance in him yt was in any wise satisfactory to ye & ye being publick reports of him last great disorderly committed by him judged to be grounded & true was ye positively excluded out of ye church

At the same Meeting Br Newman came before the church & made confession of his fact yt he stood charged w^th & gave a satisfactory account of his repentance & was ye agreed to restore him to his place the next church Meeting

Br Bedford ye acquainted the church w^th his leaving of Gamlingay & desired yt he might go to the church at Raiston in order to his setting they having invited him, but yt could not be at present granted it being to the churches trouble yt was so but since he did insist on it alledging want of maintainance & disagreement in principles as one of the reasons leave was given him to go to ye for their present supply the church must have good satisfaction about the church at Raiston before they can proceed farther.

At the same Meeting Br Nicholls Br Crocker & Br Chandler gave the church an acct yt they had been at Bason & made up the difference amongst the Members of this church ye & yt things yt were charged on sist Walker were not owned & satisfied before her to ye shee judged guiltless the charge was her neglecting publick worship & disgathering of it.

The case of ye Freeman who formerly related her experience to ye church & was approved of by ye church of England minister & ye church appointed w^ch was to their & the churches satisfaction but she refused to come before ye for some time on the acct of her principles w^ch were disatisfactory to two or three prn w^ch principles were yt she had the liberty occasionally to hear & yt the church of England minister preach & yt tho' she could hear our prn preach as gifted prn yet not as stated ministers) was agn debated & the conclusion was to receive her further not giving her liberty to hear in publick & she attending as she has opportunity on all meetings of the church w^th those prn

1698 Dec 29th 2d Sund At A church Meeting ye 29th at Bedford Br Jno: Holden was by the unanimous consent of the church cut off from the church ye appearing no signs of true repentance & Br Wm Newman was restored to his place as before. concluded ye Freeman was received into fellowship &

Whipham propounded Br Chandler & Br Bigrave were appointed to visitt sist Mary Gates now under drading

Our prn at Gamlingay being on Br Bedfords removall, deslibate of one to carry on their Meetings by preaching & having lately had Rich Freeman of ye Gibbs his church among ym on tryall, do so well approve of him yt they desired the Church to send a letter of request to the church he relates to yt they would let him come over ag^n on tryall in order to his setting among ym as their Preacher by dismission w^ch was consented to & done accordingly by the church unanimously

March At A church Meeting ye 5th at Bedford Whipham was received into fellowship.
ye Freeman above mentioned, not also received into fellowship

Our prn at Gamlingay having ag^n had further tryall of Rich Freeman ye Gibbs his church complying w^th our last request desirous the church to endeavour his dismission from ye Gibbs church & he was received the his preaching being satisfactory to the whole church & several prn in the churches name went over to Newport Church Meeting where they obtained his dismission & he was received into fellowship & preached at Gamlingay the prn yt went from Gamlingay were Br George Carter Br Cooper & Br Chandler: the next church Meeting was appointed to be the Eighth of May.

699 May 8th At A church Meeting ye 8th held at Bedford Br Freeman was received into fellowship & Mary Stone propounded, & was ye concluded yt Edeworth Meeting should one Lords day in two & at Biggleswade if the Members on yt side were willing

A letter from Rich
ye 10th was a day of Prayer appointed & kept by the church on the state of the church at this time & the suffering saints abroad

1699

2d June

At a Church Meeting at Bilsor Mary Storer was received into fellowship
yr was ye read another Letter from Rich Deane wth A Testimonial of him signed by
Several members of several Churches the Testimony of wch was to maintain his reputation
for the sins for wch he was cast out yt he might be restored to his Membership & recommi
to Mr Humphreys wch Letter is as followeth

probably this was the noted Mr John Humphreys a Presbyterian & Trinitarian.

But yr not being satisfaction at him nor the people to whom he would be dis=
missed on his being restored amongst us it was concluded to send a Letter to Mr Humphrey
declaring the Matters to him for wch he was cast out & our present dissatisfaction
leaving him to his liberty to receive him if he pleased wch is as follows.

26 June

Our next Meeting was appointed to be this day three weeks kept a Fast &c. and
at A Church Meeting ye 26th at Bedford Sarah Sutton of the Town was propounded for fellowship
the Church was informed of our Letter Sar did persist in her evills & was a great Disturbance
to the members about her yt a Difference to the good of yrby was feared would arise
of from the Fellowship of this Church at the next Church Meeting is appointed we do not agree
& yt time the Church do then also determine yt this whole Church should visit & pray
were appointed accordingly for Bedford Br Fitch & Br Crocker Br Fox & Br Chandler for Sandy
Br Fretwell & Br Mallet for Cotton End Br Sanyon & Br Gartet for Wingham Br Fitch
& Br Fretwell the things to be inquired into were how they were in their souls &
how they kept their places in Church Ordinances whether their condition as to outward
outward circumstances of the poor are, how you agree also yt Sarah Sutton should speak
her apparance if she would the Breaking Bread Day in August with the Church
Satisfaction & those received into Fellowship

1699

Churchs carriage towards some that desired transient communion here: see both these pages.

4th Sept: The Church has an Acct at a Meeting yn held at Ringwood yt our Sister Bar was fownde of her sin & did much marre ye Ingrosse - things concluded to exercise patience towards her

Our Br Trent harme was blamed by Sister Pearson & Sist: Wally for excessive drinking & yr being no satisfaction tho' the matter had been privately agitated a great while

the Church did appoint Br Lawman Br Nicholls Br Bardell & Br Chandler to go over to him & lay his sin before him & give the Church an account of his answer

Br Winter being under frequent scandalous reports the Church do appoint the same Bren to discourse him also

The Church was yn informed yt our Broth: Hubbert was already married to the person yt formerly was warned off as being carnall took it into consideration & concluded yt not an Acct given yt she was hoped to be gracious so yt yr was no farther proceeding

Sist Eliz: Wingate being a Member of Mr Glascocks Church in London desired to

1 Cr 11.27 3 : get down wth us at the Lords table - but Mr Glascock being as was supposed A Presbyterian was concluded not to admit her unless we were informed yt it was an Ingagement or favourable to yn was yrfore concluded Br Chandler should write to Mr Chandler in London for information

was concluded yt yn Lords Supper should be administred at Totton the next Lords day Sevenyght.

Our Sister Bare of Ockly being at Meeting she was called on to answer to the charge of misbehaviour in her Spl the Englishm her self but Sister Ffenton her accuser not being present the matter was deferd.

The Church was informed yt Br White was marrying a carnall person. Br Chandler was appointed to inquire into it

27th Sept + At A Church Meeting yn Church appointed the 11th of Octo: to be a day of fasting & prayer from 9 in morning to 3 in afternoon the matters for wch were 1st for the Church revived being Gods work amongst us 2d for our Children 3 for the nations 4: for success of the word 5: for the suffering yts abroad.

There was an Acct given from Mr Taylor yt he did deliver Mr Glascock to be strict in Communion tho' A Presbyterian & did advise to admit Mrs Wingate for one at least till farther inteligence, wch was accordingly complyed wth

Worsham A Member of the Church at Hitchin late under Mr Terry.

+ did desire ayn transient communion wth us, but our Br Thompson being not fully satisfied & promising to inform himself her request was denyed for the present, A the above named day of prayer John Eyton was propounded

17 Dec At A Church Meeting yn held at Yamelford Wm Robinson John Grey Mrs Pike & Mrs Phillipps were propounded for Fellowship

At A Church Meeting held yn the 24 of Jan'd the four aforenamed persons were received into Fellowship & Mat Bacon & Ann Baird were propounded

3 Jan 1699/700 At A Church Meeting yn held at Binford Jn Eyton was received into communion

& Edward Jurnier Eliz Knight & Mary Newman were propounded

yt was yn time appointed to be Spent in prayer this Friday fortnight after the Church Meeting on the behalf of Sister Hawking who hath been long under temptation & distress & for our Sister Brightland newly fallen into dreadfull temptations

The Church being informed yt Mary Gates under admonition for [illegible] & Marrying A Carnall Man did now frequently go to the Church of England Br Nicholls & Br Chandler were appointed as Messengers to her wth an admonition

31 Jan'd At A Church Meeting yn held at Binford Edward Jurnier Mary Newman & Eliz: Knight were received & Will Petch & Eliz: Butterfield propounded

The Church Meeting deferd for two Months & A day of prayer appointed this Saymouth for the usuall particulars as also for our knighted Sisters before Mentioned

Br Nicholls & Br Chandler acquainted the Church yt they had been wth Mary Gates but found her very fruitless under her fall, were concluded to exercise some patience towards her.

Severall Bren in distress sent A letter to the Church desiring some Messengers might be appointed to come over to advise you wt to do, but was concluded to write to yn to know if they sent wt the Church if they did the Church was willing to afford assistance otherwise not

1700 Leave given for singing & pronouncing the Blessing.

Br Squire appointed to speak

the Church being informed yt our Br Squire of Gangsd had a gift for the Ministry & the Meeting yt finishing finding assistance it was appointed to stay Gangsd stirring ye Lord day fortnight & to prepare to speak on Psalm 84 before the Church at our next Church Meeting in order to his being called out

Our Broth Jn Wildman yt hath for many years been under admonition for things recorded & being after many years absence returned into a design to settle w his wife in this town made some offer of acknowledging his crimes in order to his being restored, yt we send Brn gave him a Meeting at his charge & were time did he make no satisfactory answer, the Church being acquainted herew appointed Severall Brn to discourse him time again in order to satisfaction if it might be the Brn were Br Nichols Br Crocker Br Hunnilove Br Weddard Br Munns Br Bartlett Br Taylor Br Cooper Br Kingman Br Bunyan & Br Chandler.

J. B.

3 April 1700 At a Church Meeting yn held at Bedford Eliz: Baysterfield was received into fellowship Wm Patch was desired speaking his experience for some time

Kitchcock Eliz: Bodington & Eliz: Bayly were propounded for fellowship

A collection was made for Br Dent his case being low. yt being another Lords day by the consent of the Newport Messengers were appointed to get their Church & Two Brn: Appointed to discourse Jo Wildman A second time or more, they yt being very bad things reported of him as yt were acted by him in Berkshire.

May 29th Jn A Church Meeting yn held at Bedford Kitchcock & Wm Patch & Eliz: Bayly & Eliz: Bodington were received into fellowship

the next Church Meeting was appointed to be spent in prayer for the small things w the addition of Gangsd Members case abt their Embodying themselves as a Church to begin at 10 in the morning

1700 At a Church Meeting held at Bedford a day of Prayer was concluded on & kept

Our Br Vinier came to our Meeting under some scruples to satisfaction

At a church Meeting held at Gangsd about December 1700 yt were received into fellowship

the Lord Thos Bunyan & Jno Bond

1701 Our church Meetings this yeare was kept Monthly but no members received, Severall days of prayer were kept on the acct of the suffering saints abroad the case of their nations the state of this Church & for conversion work & for the sickness of this Church

At a church Meeting held the beginning of this yeare Br Rich Stuart was charged w Severall instances of covetousness & extortion w ch he acknowledged the Virginia affair to satisfa

At A Church Meeting held at Bedford about Midsumer Robt Butcher was charged by the Church w the Drunkenness & keeping disorderly company w ch was also a whole night affair Jealousy tongue, all w ch he could not deny & the next Church Meeting he attempted to give an acct of his repentance w ch was no wise satisfactory, & yrfore desired to forbe communion till he was sensible of & recovered out of his fall

Br Butcher

At a church meeting abt Michaelmas last was agreed on yt we should be liberty to sing at every meeting of preaching week dayes as well as Lords day & on those dayes in morning & afternoon, & also leave was given for the pronouncing the Blessing after prayer, & they yt concluded yt those psons yt were members of Presbyterian Churches yt were strictly in separation from the National Church should be admitted to occas communion, if known to any of us &c, no exceptions made agt their conversa -tion all communion, if known to any of us &c, no exceptions made agt their conversa

Singing

yt Blessing

At A church Meeting the beginning of December A Letter from our Sister Storer to the Church she being now at London was read wherein she desired to be dismissed from us to A Baptized church in London under Mr Pigot, & was concluded to deny it her as being contrary to the mind of christ & the received principles & practice of this church

Dismissed to a Baptist-church refused

X

& Sr Chandler sent her the Churches answare

Mrs Burkis an aged Woman Mother to our Sister Darling a member of our Church in London being settled w her daughter desired transient communion w us in this Mrs Taylor being unknown to us, an answare was desired till inquiry was made abt her & w we were informed yt she was a Presbyterian, the Church appointed some Brn to discourse this Mrs Burkis about her experience w ch was done & being reported to the Church was concluded to grant her request

1701.

Dec: 31: 1701 At a Church Meeting held at Bedford Br Robt Wilshire was appointed to go to Br Butcher & desire his attendance on the Church next meeting to give an account how matters are relating to his sons charges on him by the Church, & Br Carless was appointed to acquaint Mrs Curtiss w[ch] the churches resolves concerning her

Jan[y] 28 At a Church meeting held at Bedford Br Rush & Br Wilshire were ag[n] appointed to go to Rob[t] Butcher & desire his attendance next Meeting —
Ann — Crawley of Gamage was propounded for fellowship
At the same Meeting a day of prayer was appointed to be kept at Bedford the 2[d] of Feb[y] next at the desire of the Church at w[ch] Ann Bruce was propounded
The Lords Supper was at Gamage — Ann Crawley was raised into fellowship.

1 March
1 April 1702 At a Church Meeting y[e] 1[st] at Bedford y[e] was received into fellowship Ann Bruce —
1702 & Dorothy Bunting was propounded
The Church taking into consideration the death of Br Mabin & Br Jackson both Deacons, did Nominate Br Nich Apthorp & Br Nich Bygrave to succeed ye w[ch] way to be further discoursed of next Meeting & another of Gamage was to be nominated next Meeting to be joyned to Br Apthorp.
Nich Flint living under Steindales reproofs, & not at home the Church appointed Br Bunyan to go to him & desire him not to fail being at the Lord Supper next Lords day & to attend the next Church Meeting.
Br Gates & Br Carless was ordered to go to Sist: Mary Gates & know her matters are w[ch] her relating to her former admonition & proposal going to the Church of England & desire her attending the next Meeting —
Br Munns & Br Chandler were ordered to go to Rob[t] Butcher & lay his sins formerly charged on him close to him as also his late playing at Cards, & to acquaint him y[t] if y[e] he is not reputance the Church will proceed to excommunication. & they were ordered also to discourse w[th] his wife a Member w[th] us & to labour to convince her y[t] y[e] church did but w[t] was duly towards her Husband y[t] ring an information y[t] she do think y[e] was too much severity used towards him.

April 29 At A church Meeting y[e] 29[th] at Bedford Br Rob[t] Butcher was debated, Br Chandler & Br Munns giving an acc[t] of their being w[th] him, & y[t] they received but little satisfaction touching his repentance & w[ch] not being capable to attend the Church of a week day fearing he will arrest for debt, was concluded y[t] he should be publickly admonished on the Lords day before the administration of the Lords Supper the Messengers appointed to acquaint him y[e] were Br Scarlett & Br Goodrich ~~appointed to~~ Nich Flint not coming before the Church as appointed here concluded the same method should be taken w[th] him Br Cooper & Br Munns Messengers to acquaint him y[e] Br Gates & Br Carless were appointed to give the acc[t] of their Message to Mary Gates next Meeting, they having omitted going to her at this time.
Br Apthorp & Br Bygrave were desired to be appointed to officiate in the place of Deacons on Tryall in the room of Br Jackson & Br Mabin deceased.
Br Rush & Br Apthorp were appointed to go to Br Robinson of Gamage & reprove him abt his intended Marriage w[th] A carnall person —
Mrs Bardsey & Dorothy Bunting were received into fellowship the former not propounded before but well known to us & drawing near the time of travell it could not be admitted first Church Meeting appointed to be kept in prayer on the acc[t] of Rob[t] Butcher & Nich: Flint

3 June Mary Simpson & Eliz: Flint received, Br Gates not Attending the Message concerning Mary Simpson & Eliz: Flint propounded
Mary Gates was not delivered, & Br Chandler appointed Messenger to her.
Nich Flint did not appear on the Lords day as was ordered, at w[ch] the Church was offended & reproved him for it, & he being now present, the Church charged him on him & he undertook to give an acc[t] of his reputance

1702 wch was not satisfactory & he was ordered to withdraw & ye busy ones presently concluded
to cast him out next Meeting if by yt time yr were not satisfactory reputation the
first charged on him were, fraudulent dealing, for w^ch there is as proof & dishonest
& clandestine buying goods of an Apprentice to his Masters damage Br Mucklow &
Br Ruth were the Messengers to him
Br Butcher received his publick admonition on the Lords day, but could not attend this day by
reason of his circumstances, & the Church not knowing the effect of their admonition
could not tell w^t conclusion to come to yrfore appointed Br Ston & Br Bunyan to
go to him, & inquire how matters were who on the Lords day following reported yt
on their discoursing w^th him he seemed sencible & yt ye Church ought to hope yt
he had repentance yrfore it was concluded to waite yet longer on him, his frequent
Drunkenness Card playing & light unbecoming actions, at Stool Ball & the May Pole
Br Stents wife kindly studyed towards ye & trouble at her husband sins the
abovenamed Messengers were appointed to speake to him vindicating the Churches dealings
w^th her Husband & desiring her to keep her place amongst us.
July At a Church Meeting ye 3rd at Bedford Br Rich Stanton did appear & gave an acc^t of the frame
of his spirit under his sins w^ch he was charged w^th & spoke as was judged w^th so much sencibleness
yt he gave grounds to hope ye might be repentance in time was yrfore resolved to defer
excommunication for some time, & wholly if ye should be fuller satisfaction by future
behaviour
Br Kerr & Br Jennyns declared they had been w^th Br Butcher & by discourse w^th him
did hope ye was repentance for his sins, so yt the Church did resolve to waite on him
also, & did appoint Br Chandler & Br Nicholls to go to him & make further inquiry &c
There was ye complaint made agst Sister Malin Widow ysfte she had been guilty of
notorious lying & deceitfull carriage since her Husbands death w^ch has abundant
proof was yrfore concluded yt Br Chandler send her a letter laying these things
to her charge & demanding her answer either in person or writing
John Lambert was propounded at the same time
complaint was made agst Br W^m Robinson of Gamlingay yt he was going to marry
a Carnall mind & would not be perswaded to the contrary was yrfore concluded yt he
should be publickly admonished at Gamlingay before the Lords Supper &c
Br Gilding appointed the Messenger to him, Br Chandler went to speak w^th Mary Gates but she would
not come to him
2 Sept: John Lambert was received into fellowship & Eliz: Greenwood & Ann Labatt propounded
Br Nicholls & Br Chandler ye declared yt Sist Butcher was sick they had not been w^th him
at ye the Church was informed yt he was several hours at an ale house even till
he was drunk the last Church meeting day w^ch he should have attended, was yrfore
concluded yt the abovenamed Messengers should go to him & acquaint him yt the Church
would proceed to cutt him off if ye was not reputation w^th be next Meeting.
The Church also appointed Sist Manning & Br Hensman to go to Mary Gates & discourse
w^th her about her sins, & of marrying a carnall man & giving frequently to Church
Br Chandler was also appointed to go for how matters were w^th Br Stent since his coming
before the Church
Wm: Wagstaffe ~~not~~ being a member of Kimbolton People & now settled in this
town ~~& having~~ having several times desired his dismission from ye yt he might be
received by us, & being as oft denyed, desired Readmission amongst us but was evidently
of the ag^n sick for a dismission, Br Hall Messenger
Thursday 17 instant was kept as a day of prayer on the Churches acc^t to humble
our selves for Breaches & disorders amongst us & pray for reviving grace
30 Nov At a Church Meeting ye 3rd at Bedford Eliz: Greenwood was received into fellowship
& Mary Grimer propounded & Ann Labatt, Br Nicholls & Br Chandler gave an acc^t of the
had been w^th Sist Butcher & that they did not find him totally sencible of his sins he
yet so broken as could be desired but he desiring the Churches patience a little longer
to waite on him a little longer, & Br Nicholls & Br Crocker were sent to him
Br Chandler was appointed to write to M^r Bedford to dispense with Sister Wheeler ag^t her
publishing of the Banns of Matrimony & Letter answered. Br Freeman ag^n appointed to admon
Will Robinson & Rich Swanham to take a brother w^th him & reprove Sister Bruce
for her designed Marriage with a Carnall Man

104
7 Mov: 1702

At A church Meeting ye held at Bedford Danl Lobatt & his Wife were received into fellowship & at the ~~Church Meeting~~ of Lords Supper following Robt Thody was propounded for fellowship.

Br Sutton & Br Star were sent to Sister Bruce to beg her under admonition to for Marriage to a Carnall man.

Br Nicholls & Br Crocker gave the Church an acct yt they had bin w^th Rob^t Butcher & they hope yt may be some beginning of repentance in him, he not justifying himself but detesting his Transgressions, was yt concluded to waite on him longer & Br David Jund was sent to him to desire his coming next Church Meeting to give the church an acct how matters were w^th him &c Br Hensman & Br Munns were agn appointed to go to Sister yates to they not having been able yet to do their message.

Br Stent not being at the meeting Br Nicholls & Br Chandler were ordered to go & reprove him for his neglect & to order his attendance next meeting there not being satisfaction acted Mary Wease propounded last meeting her admission was deferd & her Speaking her experience also.

Lic: 8 12 At a church Meeting ye held at Bedford Rob^t Thody was received into fellowship the church ye received a letter from our Sister Meare alias Malin w^ch not being satisfactory they appointed Br Rich Hensman & Br Nich Apthorp to go to her as Messengers to her if from conference they could receive satisfaction touching her repentance it being queried whether the latter was of her own bidding the latter follows

To the Church of Christ at Bedford of w^ch Mr Chandler is Pastor.

Dear Sir being Judged of lying & other Crimes of yt nature, to desire from my heart to bewaile it before God & also would confess ye ~~before~~ unto you & thro Temptation & my own Unwatchfullness have been overtaken with to do find this as a token of my sincere repentance for the same, hoping for the time to come I shall take heed to my ways yt I offend not w^th my tongue, & yt I be no more a dishonor to the ways of God, or a grief to you my Bren & yt I may yet have a share in yo Affections & an interest in yo prayers to God for me I shall be the prayer of me, who am

Yo^r unworthy Sister in the Bonds of the Gospell
Mary Wease

Bedford Nov: 17 1702

Br Rob^t Butcher could not attend fearing an arrest of state — they concluded to waite Br Stent did appear, Br Nicholls & Br Chandler gave an acct also of their having been w^th him & received no satisfaction but found yt he had repeated his extortion by confession, & did not manifest yt sorrow yt was required he himself spake to the Church by way of acknowledgment & manifesting the hopes he had from Gods word of forgiveness but it did not was not at all to satisfaction, twas yrfore concluded to proceed to ~~excom~~ appoint a day for Excommunication next Church Meeting if yr was not some satisfaction received most of the bren thought it duly ye but not being unanimous twas deferd & the dissenting bren promised compliance if matters continued as they were.

Jan^y 12 At A Church Meeting ye held at Bedford Mrs Mary Lisly was propounded & received her mind of travell drawing neare, & she having new a convenience of Speaking her experience. Rob^t Butcher cast desired till next meeting he not being yet at liberty to go abroad. Mrs Wharton was propounded.

Brother Stent appeared & spoke by way of confession & manifesting repentance to ye desires of the Church determined to waite to see his conversation.

A week or two after the Church Meeting Br Newman was guilty of drunkenness to a great degree in this town w^ch he confest, the Church was called together to consult

1702 what was to be done & ye being different apprehensions as to our duty a day of
prayer was appointed to humble our selves & pray for direction after the duty
was over this case was agt debated & ye being proof of the day he was drunk &
was many hours in an ale house & so not surprized into it & ye drinking &
for a long time hath been too frequent practice was unanimously
resolved to cast him out of the church next meeting & persons ye were
Evidences ~~were~~ in the first case were Br Compton & Brother Hucklls
the persons in the latter were Br Jarvis Lusk & Sist Cooch who testified
yt he was once drunk of the Saturday & came next day to the Lords Table
& yt also yt he oft went to his shop scarcely ~~was~~ two days gone w[th]out ale.

3 March At a church Meeting ye ~~sick~~ at Bedford Mrs Whitton was received into fellowship
At the same Meeting Will Newman was cut off for drunkenness
Br Robt Butcher ye appeared before the Church & gave such an acct of his misse-
-haver yt was resolved to restore him next meeting to full communion
A day of prayer was appointed to be kept this day fortnight for reviving of Gods work
among us for conversion for security of Govt for our children for fallen Ministry
for the nation & interest of christ.

5 Sunday 28th April 1703 At a church Meeting ye held at Bedford Eliz: Spigmore of Elstow was proposed for
fellowship Twas ye agt determined yt the church should be visited & Br Nicholls Br Crocker
Br Fen & Br Mumy & Br Chandler were appointed for yt work in Bedford, Br Groves
& Br Geo: Carless & Br Cobb for Gamlingay Br Bigrave Heartsit for Cotton End
a report to be made the first Meeting after Michaelmas.
Twas ye progress yt the Members in each Congregt should inquire
yrselves, they to give their answare at the time before sett
Complaints were ye made of the unbecoming Conversation of our Sister Mary
Cooch. & Br Chandler was appointed to write to her.
Sister Bruce ye appeared & made a satisfactory acknowledgment of her sin
in marrying a Carnall man for wch she had been reproved & admonished
Br Carless & Br Whitsman reported from Mary Gates yt she was sencible of her decays
& did bewaile ye & desired prayers & for her going to Church twas to please her
husband only & yt because he threatened otherwise to leave her & her children
Robt Butcher was ye restored to full communion w[th] the Church
Br Nicholls & Br Apthorp did ye plead a release from the office of Deacon to wch they
had been called alledging their own unfitness for the work twas agreed to desire
ye to pray & consider of it till the next generall Meeting & Br Cobb
was also Nominated for yt office also w[th] our Br Apthorp
Br Simon Flewett having for a long time absented from the Lords Supper
tho not under dealing Br Nicholls & Br Cooper were appointed to inquire into the
cause & to press him to his duty.
Br Elmit made some further acknowledgment but not ~~all~~ to satisfaction

June 30th At a church meeting at Bedford Mrs Frances Wingate & Eliz: Spigmore were received
Mary Dawson & Ann Shepherd proposed for fellowship

October 6 At A church Meeting held at Bedford Mary Dawson & Ann Shepherd were received
Those appointed to visit the church gave in answare yt having done their work they find
the Members generally in charity among yrselves & yt they keep their places in the Church
only much complaining of Coldness in their Spirits & some under great temptation
yrfore yt day a day of prayer appointed yt day month for those cases.
Br Chandler ye declared he could go no more to Gamlingay to administer the Lords
Supper & ye twas agt determined to desire the members yr to intreat among yrselves
Br Nicholls & Br Chandler were appointed to go to Br Howard yr being ye
Ingrath of failing in his conversation
Br Elmit was ordered to attend next Meeting Br Cooper sent to him
Mr Nicholls intimated his apprehensions of his incapacity for the office of a Deacon
Mr Green desired to be excused, but on the churches importunity & unanimously took upon
him to undertake it

106 Nov 1703 Brother ffleit appeard & gave such an account of himself as was
to his repentance & was fully satisfyed & was restord to full communion
Jan mrs Anna Wingate & Ann Turner were propounded for fellowship
ffeb 6 mrs Anna Wingate & Ann Turner were admitted to fellowship
1704
May 10 Will Riddal & Mary Parsler were propounded for fellowship
June Wil Riddall & Mary Parsler were received into fellowship

Octo 2d Propounded — Penny, Martha Spring Sarah Stogdale the 1st of November
appointed for a day of prayer
Nov 18 Penny Martha Spring & Sarah Stogdale were received into fellowship

Dec: 20 mrs Whitebread & Eliz: West were propounded & touching the latter she
being A Member w[th] mr Benson of Widingborow she was desird to send
to him for A dismission
att the same Meeting the church was informed of Dorothy Bunting
a Member of the had been guilty of whoredom & was with child &
also of she affirmed her self to be married the 10th of June which
she was not married till the 8th of Nov: following, was ordered
to send an admonition to her by Br Chandler

Dec 31 mrs Whitebread was received into fellowship, tho' before the church
Meeting, that special appointed Meeting not appointed was appointed by
Consent on purpose for her, because of the great distress she lay under
after speaking to the church Eliza: West having a letter of dismission
1705 was also received into fellowship in full communion
2d March mrs Whitebread mrs Rachel Wingate & Ann Waldick were propounded
the church was ye informed of Dorothy Bunting was gone to Repton
from Ganger where Br Chandler was yr so ye the admonition could not
be delivered & yrfore Br Freeman & Br Geddens were appointed
Messengers on the same acct & ye shall come next Church Meeting
All the same Meeting the church was informed of our Br Isher
ffranklins daughter had cutt her own throat throat & ye occasion of
our Br her father towards her had been rough & unkind & unnatural
& ye he was very fruitless under the providence & carryd himself
very unbecomingly & unconcernedly after this sore
providence contrary to Gods word, to his dishonor the churches grief
& the offence or stumbling of many was yrfore determined to
withdraw communion from him for sometime tho' ye he appeared
sorrowfull & in the sence of sore & truly penitent for his wife
also a Member w[th] Dan Pigeon having had liberty of communicating
w[th] us was denyed the same she having been faulty also.
mrs Rachell Wingate & Ann Waldick were received mrs Whitebreads
2 May coming was prevented by extraordinary business
Br ffisher & Br Cooper were appointed to discourse
Elizabeth ffield, who all ye time desired communion & if ye they were
satisfyed w[th] her. she was to be propounded the 3rd day next, w[ch] accordingly
was done
was yn determined Br ffranklin should waite longer before he be restord
Dorothy Bunting or speaking yn appeard, as ordered & by w[t] the Messengers said
& that she her self, was hoped she was sencible of her great transgression
& she was rather reserved, & admonished before the church.
The next Church Meeting was appointed ye day fortnight

16 May 1705 Att A Church Meeting ye 16th at Bedford ye Inhabitant was received into fellowship & the same time Elizabeth Hill ye received also. John Franklin was further desiring refused & how ye appointed ye 1st day in month to be a generall Church Meeting also to inquire the Affairs & state of the Church & to pray the Lord of prayer.

13 June Att a Church Meeting ye held at Bedford Tho: Mason. Eliz: Brightly & Ann Burgess were propounded for fellowship

John Franklin was agn heard him refused yt not being unanimously concerning him

Jno: Burgess also reported to the Church yt our Sister Burgess had been guilty of rude & unbecoming Diseases at Cardington the yt she & her Husband did absent themselves from the Church ordinances, wherefore Br Nicholls Br Taylor & Br Mears were appointed to go w the admonition to her & her Husband

Jno: yt determined yt Br Bigrave & Br Fisher go to Mary Gabs alias Cockayne & to enquire how matters were w her she having heretofore been admonished for going to Church & absenting her self from the Communion of the Church

10 Feby Thos: Mason. Eliz: Brightly & Ann Burgess were received into fellowship &c.

There was an appointment of a day of prayer & fasting by reason of Temptation & the Sins of A long time & great Distress by reason of the Temptation of the Evil One

29 Augt: At A Church Meeting ye held our Br John Franklin was desired to give A further Acct of himself w reference to Matters formerly charged on him, w he agreed to the satisfaction of the Church & was agn restored w one consent to full Communion

3 Octo † Mary Green of Ampthill was propounded for fellowship.

This day fortnight was appointed to be spent in prayer yt the Name of God on the Church in removing many members of late by death might be sanctified & prayed.

The Lord having removed our Honoured Br Hen: deacon of this church by Death, the Church did agn renew their application to our Brother Nicholls yt he would accept of their call to ye office, & he was agreed to come to A finall conclusion w him & Br Bigrave (who stands on tryal for A deacon also) the next Church Meeting

John Fenn

At the same Meeting our Br Joshua Read was sent out to preach the Gospell by the approbation consent & prayers of the church

Br Read entous as a Preacher

Br Nicholls & Br Taylor ye gave an acct of their having been w our Sister Burgess & laye her sins before her, & reported yt she instead of acknowledging ye same justified her self, & reflected on generall Practice of the church Do agn appoint the same bre to repeat their admonition to her & her Husband, who is guilty of prophaning the Lords day by travelling in the way of his business as A Carrier, & absenting himself from the Lords Table & publick worship &c.

Brother Bigrave & Br Fisher were also appointed to go to Sist Gabs alias Cockayne & admonish her of her going to unclean her carnal company keeping & not coming to the ordinances of Christ.

Mary Green was received into fellowship &

Barrett propounded. the Banns also

Br Nicholls being at London w referred to him & Br Bigrave

Oct 31 Absent was deferred to next Church Meeting.

Nov Mrs Barrett was received into fellowship & James Marshal propounded

Dec 14 James Marshall was received into Fellowship &c

Dec 12 At A church Meeting ye at Bedford Br Nicholls & Br Bigrave accepted the

Jan 9 Call of the church to the office of Deacons Br Nicholls desired & the Church promised yt if through the grounds the office too heavy for him or if any providence required him uncapable of A comfortable discharge of it he might be released. Mr Bedford was ye appointed to Ridgmont church, the Br Nicholls & Br Bigrave were already set apart as deacons by prayer &c

Feb 6 Br Bedford dismissed

Mar 6 Unanimous call of the Church

Mary Rugby was propounded for fellowship & A Generall Church Meeting appointed to be held the 27th of this Instt

10th 1st mo 27 March 1706 At a generall Church Meeting mary Rugby was received into fellowship, & Dorothy Bunting alias Jeakins gave an act of her repentance for her sin formerly charged on her, to the Churches satisfaction but some members not being present who were more immediately concerned her being restored to full communion was deferd.

† Jules 29th determined yt the Church should be visitted, Br Nicholls Br Crocker & Br Jeyler were appointed for Bedford Br Bigrave & Br Scarlett for Cotton End Br Freeman Br Cobb Br Gidney & Br Sarles for Gamlingay Br Whitman & Br Hubbert about Ely

Mary Lepperwhite was propounded for fellowship

1 May At a church Meeting yt held Mary Lepperwhite was received into fellowship & Dorothy Jeaking restored she ag[ain] giving a satisfactory act of her repentance & those present who before were absent.

There was yt propounded for fellowship Curtiss & his wife Eliz: Giles & Mercy Overall, Sarah Ireland & Sarah Stokes, & yt having formerly been some dissatisfaction among some Members about Sarah Stokes, Br Jeyler & Br Cooper were appointed to discourse her & those dissatisfied & if matters could be reconciled yt she is to have liberty of speaking her experience w[ith] the next next church meeting.

29 Received into fellowship Mercy Overall Eliz: Giles Sarah Ireland & Sarah Stokes yt being satisfaction touching this last Person

Propounded for fellowship Alice Goodman. Curtiss & his wife were deferd till next meeting A child of theirs being dangerously ill.

July 3 At A Church Meeting yt held at Bedford yt was received into fellowship Curtiss & his wife & Alice Goodman & the Wife of our Br Tho: Hubbert was also received w[hen] being propounded as usual she drawing neare her time of travell & Sarah Savill of Muggerhanger was propounded

July 29 Sarah Savill was received into fellowship & Br Cooper & Br Thompson were added to the Brn in Bedford who were appointed to visitt yt yr work might be perfected by the generall Meeting

August 27 appointed to visitt made a report yt they had been w[ith] most of the Members & found yt they were all in charity w[ith] one another & did generally keep their places in attendance on church ordinances, some complained of decaying & lowness of their spiritts & some tempted, Itwas yn concluded yt the next Church Meeting be kept in prayer on the Churches account & Itwas yn desired yt the visitting Brn would go to those they had not visitted & inquire into the cause, & acquaint the Church w[ith] it next Meeting.

2 October At a Generall church Meeting held at Bedford, the Brn who were † Itwas yn reported yt our Sister Roberts did not frequent the church ordinances, nor publick worship constantly Br Bigrave go to her & inquire into the cause, & acquaint her yt tho her Husband was for merly cut off yet yt was full liberty for her to take her place w[ith] us Sister Wildmott not using to attend the Lords Supper, Itwas determined to send a letter to her

† Br Humphry Best & his wife & Ann Stamford living neare Roiston desired by Br Freeman their dismission to ye Bedford, Itwas agreed yt they should come in person & request the same & get down w[ith] us at the Lords table before their dismission, a letter to be sent yn accordingly but if they could not come to send to the Church in writing.

1706 Jan 6/7 Our Br Joshua Read was dismissed to the church of Christ in Chichester he being called to the pastorall office among yn.

Feb 5 Benjamin Crocker & his wife Joseph Wilshire Jilley & Sam[ll] Hensman propounded for fellowship

1706 At the ffamo Meeting Br Bygrave & Br Parker reported y they had been wth sister Hobson to know the reason of her not attending the Lords Supper, & of the complaint of pride in her spirit & dress & deadness & withall manifested her selfe dissatisfyed wth the proceedings of the church agst her late Husband in casting him out & yt yt was no notice taken of her by the church wth the Extreme disrespect wherein yt Sister & Brethren were desired to go to her agn & desire her being at the next Church Meeting to hear wt the church had to say to her

16 ffebd Joseph Wilshire Bury: Crocker & his Wife & Silley were received into fellowship & Jane Wilshire was also received by dismission from the Church of Christ under Mr Rawling his care wch dismission was granted by yn the 22 of Jan: Last & signed by Mr Rawling Dan: Eaton & Jo: Hunter. Sam: Hensman before propounded his speaking his Experience was desired till next Meeting be cause many Members were dissatisfyed wth him, & yt was such an appearance of Strangers at this church Meeting yt twas not thought convenient to enter upon the debate about him.

March Henry Huckle was propounded for fellowship

2

yr 27 Henry Huckle was received into fellowship & Mary Sawyer propounded & twas yn Ireland 1707. yt yr having been such opposition agst Sam: Hensman formerly proponnded to dismission, yt yr might be no further proceedings about his dimission, but not being willing to go forward

Wm Winter being generally offensive in his walk & Enthusiasticall in his notions & admonition was from this Meeting sent him by Br Chandler & Br Freeman

There being A letter sent to this church from sundry persons in and about Newport formerly Members of the church of Christ yr desiring advice from us wch letter is underwritten, was concluded to send an answare in these three particulars first yt we should give no advice because of the inscription of the letter manifesting they had recourse to those also for advice whose principles we know not or did not agree wth

secondly yt we know not the person they had mercy yn for A preacher

thirdly yt such was the intricacy of their case yt we did not fully understand it & should do nothing yt might tend to dividing the ch yr.

3 April Mary Sawyer Received into fellowship

30 May Nottingham & Eliz: Bandy & Sarah Rutthead were propounded. Twas yn agreed to recommend our sister Parrot of Sudington to Mr Dutton for baptism

1 Octo Eliz: Bandy & Sarah Rutthead were received into fellowship

ber Then twas determined according to A former request to dismiss to the Church of Christ at Royston upon yr personall appearance or writing to the Church Umphry Earl & his wife & Ann Stamford all of Eldmyton near Royston & they are accordingly dismissed &

Nov 19th then twas determined to keep a day of prayer & humiliation this day fortnight on the behalf of our Members generall of yn being greatly afflicted & yt conversion work may be revived & yt God would Raise up among us men fitt for publick service in the Ministry the necessityes of the church calling aloud for such Mr former preachers being mighty dead &

there being some dissatisfaction about Nottingham & Barford who stand proponnded wt England Br Parr & Br Jo: Wilshire was appointed to go & discourse wt Br Thompson was desired to supply either Nottingham Meeting Monthly the church first having tryed his gift wt some approbation

110 April 1708

March 31 Robt Knott of Cardington was propounded for fellowship

April 28 Robt Knott was received into fellowship & Mrs Smith of Bedford was propounded Thos Gardiner wife

June 2 Mrs Smith Received & Mr Dawson & Mary Lake propounded

31 Mary Lake was received into fellowship

Sept 5 At the Lords Supper Sarah Harris of Tuddington was propounded

28 At A Church Meeting yt had at Bedford Sarah Harris of —— Tuddington was received into fellowship &c

Nov: about beginning of this Month Harris of Bedenham was propounded & Received the 15th Dec: & yt Mr Vincent & his wife were propounded &c ——

Jan: Mr Vincent & his wife were received

March — Our Br Wm Reddall having bin frequently guilty of the sin of Drunkenness the church was acquainted wth it on good Evidence & Br Bigrave & Br Randolf Gaylor were sent to him to admonish him & desire him to attend the next church Meeting.

May 1709 About this time Sister Grasscock was received into fellowship & Sister Pemberton of Thurleigh. & Mrs Larkins

3 Dec: Eliz: knight was propounded & received the 1st of Febr: after & Wm Reddal ordered to attend the church being formerly admonish'd Sister Ann Hawkins alias Foskett by letter desired a letter to Mr Neale of London, being concluded to send her word to write yonger. She was dismissed March 30. 1715. p 114.

1710

29 March Mrs Jopheun was propounded

It being observed of sundry Members were absent from their places at the Lords Table they were sent to to attend the next Meeting of the church as followeth. Br Cooper sent to Br Howard Br Randolf to Br Turner Br Cooper to Br Reddall Br Cooper & Br Bigrave to Sist. Hodson & Br Chandler to Sist Smith of Oakley.

Our Brn & Sisters in and about Gamgoe having determined to unchurch by reasons of their distance from us did desire their dismission from this church, wch was prayed about & they desired to bring the Names of such persons in each Church Meeting as concurr in this design in order to their dismission it being Judged more for Gods glory & their Edification to be A distinct Church.

May 20 Mrs Jon Foskett was propounded for fellowship

The following Brn & Sisters in & about Gamgoe after their dismission joined by yrselves, who were accordingly dismiss'd to incorporate as a Church of Christ among yrselves they at such a distance not being capable to keep to the ordinances of Christ as wth us

The Church at Gamgoe Gamsled & incorporated

viz. John Will James Gidding Nicholas Kepthorpe Tho: Squire Tho: Marks Tho: Carlisle
Robt: Day George Carlisle Jo[n] child Jo[n] Grey Benj: Dawson Wm Marks
Wm Robinson Tho: Marks Jun[r] Rich Bowman
~~May 27 Mrs Kepthorne &c were admitted into fellowship~~
Joanna Giddings Jane Duke Mary Marks Mary Clarke Eliz: Kepthorne
Mary Carlisle Kath: Woodward Mary Carlisle Ann Bond Eliz: Prigmore
Mary Marks Mary Pruden Kath: Marks Ann Cranby Mary Phillips

1710
May 31 Mrs Kirkett & Mrs Chapham were received into fellowship &
Mrs Redman propounded
June 29 Mrs Redman Received & Mary Armes propounded & Goodman Turner
the next meeting this day three weeks.
July 18 Goodman Turner & Mary Armes received
About Sept 1710 Mrs White of Bedford was received

Thu 16th Nov: 1710 Mrs Hobbs was received into full communion
by dismission from Mr Roswell of London

Thu 14th Dec: ~~Rich~~ Nich Turner & Ann Armes were
Propounded & received next Month

1711
29 Aug Mrs Edwards was Received into fellowship
Nov: 8 Miles Bagley & Jn[o] Woodward & Jo[n] Sheppard were propounded
& Matthew Thompson
Dec 6 Miles Bagley & Jn[o] Woodward & Jo[n] Sheppard were received into fellowship
& Jn[o] Thompson
Jo[n] Wagstaffe & Gilbert Siegus were propounded
Jan[y] 2 Jo[n] Wagstaffe & Gilbert Siegus were received & Jos: Mathury propounded
Jan[y] 30 Jos: Mathury was received & Joseph Walls & Ann Sawyer propounded
Then Also Br Saylor Br Vincent Br Mathews & Br Sole were nominated
to ye church for two of them to be chosen Deacons next Church Meeting
Feb 27 Ann Sawer & Joseph Walls were received into fellowship
Br Hobbs & Br Saylor were Chosen Deacons by a great Majority
& the next Church Meeting was appointed for a day of fasting &
prayer for ye Separation.
1712 Rich: Brinklow & Eliz: Salisbury were propounded.
March 26 Eliz: Salisbury received into fellowship & Mrs Hobbs & Sandy
Saylor Set apart for Deacons
April 30 Rich Brinklow received into fellowship & Ann Sharman propounded
& Wm Tidey
May 28 Eliz: Watford propounded & Ann Sharman received & Wm Tidey
June 21 Mrs Watford received. the next Meeting appointed a Generall one to inquire that Sat
of the Church.

1712 July 27 Sister Townsend was dismissed to the Church of Christ at Barrington under the
1712 Care of Pr. Jennings & Sist Webb of Sist Eliz: Childs to were dismissed to
the Church of Christ under Mr Stranden at Gangord
Jo: Wagstaff who had been under admonition for Drinking to excess Gave
=sad hopes was now restored to full communion
Sept 30 Sister Ann Jennings Dismissed to the Church of Christ at Kilworth
under the care of her Husband. & Mary Wootton of Godington & Abraham
Button were propounded. the next Meeting was appointed to be a day
of fasting & prayer on the Churches & natchis account
Octo 25 Abraham Button & Mary Wooton were received at the close of the
day of prayer. Robt Mow desired communion, but being by the Church deferd.
Nov 25 the Relt Daniell Negus & Simon Jonpson were propounded
Dec 23 Tho: Relt & Daniell Negus were received & Will Batterfield &
Hannah Wally were propounded for fellowship &c
Jan 6 12 Received into fellowship Simon Jonpson Will Batterfield & Hannah
Wally & propounded for fellowship Jonathan Wally Mary Rubatham
1713 & Ann Mums.
March 28 Joan Kingsman Ann Mums Joan Negus & Jo: Simpson having been long pro=
=pounded for Communion, & not permitted to give in thier experiences & were
desired yt the persons yt objected agt yn should either go to yn &
receive satisfaction or els bring thier objections to the Church to be
considered by yn. Sister Brad stands in the same case.
Br: Jonpson & Br Cooper were sent to Br Hunt & his wife to inquire
into the reason of thier absenting yrselves from communion w: the
Church & to inquire into their conversations
Br Taylor & Br Jo: Burgess were sent to Jo: Wagstaffe to admonish him
for his sin of Drunkeness of wch yr is abundant proof
Br Mathews & Br Jonpson were sent to Br Savill & Sister Waddock
(yr being accusations laid by the former agst the latter of lying & an unbecom=
=ing conversation otherwayes) to see how matters stood between yn. whither
the offender had given satisfaction or yr was ground for the charges.
Mrs Hobbs's request of communion was mentioned, but she having been exct
out of Pr Taylors Church at London for unchastity, & yt Church not being
satisfyed w: her former profession of repentance leaving it to us to deter=
=mine concerning her, the Church resolved on a day of prayer to be kept
on the 13th of May on her account & the other cases before mentioned.
There were propounded for Communion & received into fellowship
Jonathan Wally Mary Rubatham & Ann Mums of this Town who desired com=
=munion two years since but having formerly been guilty of unchastity & had
two Bastards was desired to waite longer, & having from yt time behaved her
self well (as before) & giving in a very satisfactory experience was w: the rest
received.
April 26 About this time Jno Franklin Jo: Taylor Ann Dossiter & Abigail Mums &
Sarah Mathews were propounded, another day of prayer was appointed for the former
June 3 Jo: Taylor Jane Franklin & Ann Dossiter & Abigal Mums & Sarah
Mathews were received & Eliz: Pearce & Tho: Brown Jun: were propounded
July 1 this month Tho: Marks Jun: was propounded
Tho: Marks & Eliz: Pearce were received & Mary Rysk propounded.
Will Newman formerly exct out for repeated Drunkeness desiring to be receiv
ogn the Matter was proposed to the Church & Br Higrave & Br Hocket
were appointed to inquire into his conversation & they now declared yt
they could not find yt he lived in any sin, the further consideration
of his request & the conclusion were deferd to another

Jno: Brown junr & Mary Rush were received into fellowship & Samuel
30 Hensman. It having been observed of Jo[n] Waggstaffe hath generally absented
1713 himself from the publick meetings of this Church as also from Church Meetings
more privately this since his admonition for drunkenness by Simpson & by
— Brunyan were sent to him to acquaint him of the Church's desire
& expect his attendance for the future while under dealing
Rob[t] Mew was ag[n] mentioned for communion but ye being an account of
uneasiness in some Members the matter was ag[n] deferd for sometime.

Augst — Eliz: Hern was propounded for fellowship
Sept 3 — Sister Hern was Received into fellowship & Gerrard Audley propounded.
who also was waived the next Church Meeting
Oct 1 about this time our Sister Mary Cockayne who has long been of England
under dealings for her Marrying a Cornish Man going to Church, &
forsaking the Communion of the Church, & walking unbecoming
the Gospell came & made an acknowledgment of her Evills, &
gave full satisfaction to the whole Church & was ag[n] restored to
full Communion
This Winter also our Br Dick Bigrave having run greatly into
debt, & been guilty of remissness in his affaires, w[ch] occasioned his
breaking, & having been Guilty of being drunk, & of sitting too
long in his House, was called before the Church, but where he
did make some acknowledgment — but it not being satisfactory, the
the Church did not think it convenient (he should get down at the
Lords Table, till he had given more full satisfaction
1714
June 2 John Cooper Jno: Pigues Eliz: Armes & Bridget Wasgum were
proposed for fellowship
July 30 June John Cooper Jno: Eliz: Armes Bridget Wasgum were received into
fellowship, & Also Mary Wyat by dismission from the Church of Christ in
Welling Corner, under the Pastorall care of Br[n] King.
X was ye concluded to dismiss Arabella Wells to Br[n] Nesbitt of London
X & a letter of dismission sent accordingly she living in London.
there being a reconciliation between Br Savill & his wife, & our
Sister Wadlock. She viz the latter was restored to full communion
Br Wm Wilshire having been guilty of receiving much company
into his House (he keeping an Ale House) on the Lords Day to the grieving
of Religion, & grief of his Bro[n] Br Croker, Br Gayler, & Br Simpson
were appointed to reprove him for it, & to order him to appear next
Meeting to acknowledge his fault, & ye[n] manifest his repentance for his
so great an Evill, his practice
Eliz: Whitbread of Godington was propounded for fellowship.
Very frowning providences appearing there appointed ye[n] be weekly
meetings of prayer among the Br[n] about this time Mary wife was dismist
from the Church of Christ at Wellingborough under the Pastoral care of
Sept 28 Elizabeth Whitbread was received into fellowship
26 Octo: Armes was propounded for fellowship
our Br Wm Wilshire manifesting his repentance for former evills charged a
him to satisfaction & was restored to full communion

Nov 23 1714 Sist Armes was received into fellowship & Anne Manton was propounded for fellowship:

Dec: 21 1714 Sist Anne Manton was received into fellowship.

Feb 3 Sist Lord & Sister Williamson were propounded for fellowship

March 3 Sister Lord & Sister Williamson were received into fellowship:

March 30 1715 Sist Valentine was propounded for fellowship

Bro Bigrave was ye appointed of Bro Forskett to go to Bro Bigrave & Exhort him to come to the Church Meeting to give the Church Satisfaction touching his former failings charged on him by the Church & Bro Foskit was also sent to Wm Vinter to appoint him to appear next Church Meeting

Bro Jno Hubbard was appointed Messenger to Bro Rich: & Bro Jho: Frostman to know why they did not keep their places in the Church

Bro Cooper was sent to Sister Holden who hath long absented her self from the Communion of the Church to Exhort to a return.

Complaint was ye made agst our Bro Redman of an unfriendly & unbecoming letter sent by him to Wm Willmot late of Cardington by sist, wch seems to condemn his former Justifying himself of innocency relating to her when charged wth two great Crimes by the Church was ye before sent to by Bro Huckle & Bro Carter to appear before the Church the next meeting

Several Bretheren were appointed to visit the members, & see how Matters stood wth ye Sist & to Exhort you to constant communion wth the Church: Bro Carter & Bro Huckle for Cardington Bro Forskett for Cranfield Bro Jayler & Bro Cooper for Bedford

April 26 Our Sister Parlour alias Sugh was at her request dismissed wth Milways Church at Kettering & Mrs Valentine was received.

Sept 28 Bro Thompson & Chan: Chandler were appointed to go to Bro Redman the refusing to come before the Church

ye was ye a complaint of light carriage in our Bro Wm: Salisbury wth another Mans wife to the reproach of Religion, Bro Chandler & Bro Savill were appointed to go to him & deale faithfully wth him about it & Exhort him to come & confess his fault to God & his People next Church Meeting

Nov 23 Sarah Purton Received into fellowship & Sar: Cooper by dismission from Mrs Comfort & — Sparks propounded

Dec 21 Sist Sparks Received & Frances Tidcomb who was propounded before

1776

about May or June Margt Combes propounded for fellowship
In July Received her into fellowship

29 August At a Church Meeting Br Savill Br Jonpson & Br Chandler were
agn appointed to go to Br Redman on the former acct & were yt agreed
yt A Letter should be sent to Br Bigrave declaring him to come & own
his former failing to the Churches Satisfaction & retake his place
Mrs Banes was yn propounded for fellowship & Mrs Steven White desired
to be revived by dismission from the Church of Christ at Stumbo
Jo: Sympson was propounded also
Br Sam: Flemman & Br Jonson were appointed to go to Br Salis-
:bury & Exhort him to give an acct of w: was charged on him
either by Justifying himself or manifesting his repentance
A day of Solemn prayer about the offending members & the
Low estate of the Church was yn appointed for ye 3d day three
weeks, or Month.
Then also was agreed & our Sister Mary Ireland formerly Cropper
=wheate to write to the Church of Christ in Futer-Jocjus-
tice the privilidges of occasional communion: & Letter was sent.
On or about the third of October at a Church Meeting, proceedings ab
Mrs Banes were defrd, untill yr should be a perfect reconciliation
betwixt her & her Sister Stubbs a Member of this Ch.
Jo: Symsons admission was put by because of the dissatisfaction
of Several about his conversation
Mrs Steven White was revived by dismission from the Church
at Stevington wch dismission was signed by Jno Hancock Eldr.
Thos Lawrance & Jo: Lovell Deacons & Jeffery Needham & Thos Cox.
It was yn determined yt for the future in all admissions the
persons admitted should explicitly declare their giving up themselves
to this Church & promise to walk according to the rules of Jesus
amongst us.
It was yn concluded yt Br Jonpson should go to John Wingstaffe &
require him in the Churches name to attend next Church meeting
he being charged w: first instances of Drunkenness. Br Croker was
desired to speak to Sister Harris to attend next Church Meeting to me
acknowledgment of her Sabbath breaking formerly charged on her in
selling fruit on Sundays Green at the time of the Sacr
[illegible]

(116)

1716 At the same Meeting Br Chandler & Br Jompson & Br Savill reported that they had been wth Br Redman, from whom they had Courteous treatment & found him willing to return to his place but not to own or deny the latter he was chaiged wth & yt because of a vow He had made never to confess it one way or other & tho He was long disswaded wth & much said to remove him of this Rashness & sinfulness of it & yt it was his duty to repent of it & break it yet he could not be convinced of it & the next Morning finding a serious letter to Br Chandler & upon reflexion it being found yt this letter was before the being formerly refferd to comunion about the same Matter twas agreed to waite longer & consider of the Matter.

Br Richard Bigrave wrote a letter to Br Chandler being reqyrd yrto, because he could not attend the Meeting, the same was read to the Church, & the former part of it containing his acknowledgement was satisfactory, but yrbeing some reflexions on some Bren not named yrin, as if for their sakes He was kept from his place wth reflexion appearing to the Church to be groundless, twas yn determined to send to him to know of who He meant & desire him to tell who said to him yt He was dealt wth as He had been, because He was not a good Benefactor to the Church, or yt good Benefactors to the Church might have graine of allowance & yt He must be made an Example to others to take warning by.

At the same Meeting Br Jompson & Br Hensman reported yt they had been wth Br Salisbury, but he persisted in his refusing to own or deny the charge agst him, & to come to the Church Meeting, & yt not being full proof twas determined to waite longer on him.

15th Nov: Sarah Taylor was propounded for fellowship

Sister Harris not attending Br Jos: Medbury was appointed to go to her yt the Church required her attendance next Meeting to manifest her repentance for the sin she is charged wth viz Sabbath Breaking Br Jompson reported from Br Jo: Waggstaffe yt He seemed to be sensible of his evill in being repeatedly overtaken wth Drink & was sorry He gave the Church so much grief & trouble & hoped the Lord assisting He should reform. upon wch the Church was about to exercise more patience towards him, but one Br Cooper standing up & informing the Church yt He was drunk last Saturday & Br Tilly also yt He was so on Friday, Likewise & Lay out all night as Sister Sarah Taylor affirmed twas unanimously agreed to cast him out

It was to be the matter of prayer next Church meeting & yn to fix a time for yt awfull Ordinance.

1716
12 Dec: At a Church Meeting y^e 12th at Bedford Sam^ll Taylor was — received into fellowship

Our Sister Harris was restored to full communion upon acknowledgment of her Evill in selling fruit on the Lords day & promising more circumspect walking.

The Widow Boddington propounded Br Tompson & Br John Cooper appointed to go & discourse w^th him in order to full Satisfaction.

John Waggstaffe appeard & p^r manifesting repentance as she had done before to those Brⁿ y^t had been w^th him of late & promising amendment in his conversation & desiring the churches patience w^th him for some time it was agreed to proceed no farther as^t him y^t

Br Redmans letter (w^ch the Church was formerly acquainted w^th as w^ch was just Matter of offence) being wrote by him before he was formerly dealt w^th, & he y^t giving Satisfaction as to what was charged on him being the same in substance w^th the letter, & y^t being testimony of the agreeableness of his conversation to his profession, it was determined to restore him to full — communion & Br Carlisle was appointed in the Churches name to acquaint him w^th it.

27 March At a Church Meeting y^e y^r were propounded the — Widow Medbury & George Medbury her son in Law.

Febr: 1717 At a Church Meeting y^e 2nd Sis Banes was ag^d propounded

Apr 3 for fellowship y^r being a reconciliation betwixt her & her sister Sis Tabitha Wright was also propounded for fellowship Br Sam^ll Kingman & Br John Taylor were appointed to — visit Jn^o Waggstaffe under dealing & see how it was w^th his soul & conversation —

Sis John Gordon was y^e 4th Received into fellowship

y^e was a time appointed for prayer on the act^t of the bad Weather & the threatned invasion &c —

May 29 Three were received into fellowship Sis Banes Sis Widow Medbury & Sarah Wright & George Medbury. Then also Br Sam^ll Kingman & Br Jn^o Taylor reported their being w^th Brother Jn^o Waggstaffe & he appeared to be very sensible of & humble under his former faults, & was determined to wait on him for longer proof of his Repentance & Reformation

3 July At a Church Meeting Sister Br Christo: Rush was received by dismission from the church of Christ at Kettering under the Pastoral care of Mr Milway. w^ch dismission was granted 4th Apr: & contained

1717 a very recommendatory character & was signed by Mr Milway & Brr
Ephraim Bagnall Moir & Jno: Richards Deacons & Saml Rowstat
& Wife also (Mary Barlow formerly) was owned as a Member w[th] us —
the Dismission formerly granted to Mr Milway not having been rec[d]
by ye Church on the prospect of their returning w[th] her husband
to live at Bristol w[ch] now was effected.

Mrs King of Calmath was ye propounded & Br Cooper & Br Sharpe
were appointed to discourse her in order to satisfaction —
Mrs Redman was ye propounded & Br Saml Hingman &
Br Huckin were appointed to discourse her on same acc[t].
Br Salisbury was agn sent to comm[d] next Meeting & com[n]
how far Jealousy of w[ch] he is charged w[th] be Justifie —
himself wherein since com[g] by Br Benj: Croker
Eliz: Smith of Staggden was also propounded.
Br John Cooper sent to Br John Waggstaffe to inquire
how matters are — w[th] him about his former Miscarriages

Augt 16 At A Church Meeting Mrs King Mrs Redman & Eliz: Smith
of Staggden were received into fellowship
Eliz Glass was restored to full communion
Br Waggstaffe having been repeatedly overtaken in the
sin of Drunkenness & the Church being informed thereof
have determined again to fix a time next Meeting to
cast him out unless ye be thorow repentance &c
& was agreed ye a letter should be sent him by
Br Chandler to acquaint him therew[th] w[ch] as follows

Brother Waggstaffe —

I do Lordly according to the appointment of the Church
of Christ ye relate to acquaint you of grief & sorrow
sion with been given to the church of ye having been
guilty of overtaken — or guilty of the sin of drunkenness
sincerely professed repentance for it, w[ch] we cannot —
sufficiently bewail before God. — you know ye the hopes
we had of a begun & continued repentance & reformation
(which caused Jo: ann[o] 13) was the only reason we did not
proceed to cast you out from among us, as was intended
But those hopes vanishing by the repetition of ye sin, & no
yor shameful repentance manifested by you to morrow at
our Church Meeting again stayes our proceedings we shall
give on the day for ye Reclaiming & yt in faithfulness to
Lord Christ whose we are & to your — whose recovery & Salva-
tion we have at heart, & also for the honour of God & our
own purity & peace. This I send to you in the Name of the
Church praying God recovery you by repentance this day warning you
if nothing else will do by the sentence it self. ye compassionate
Brother C — Chandler

29 Octo 17

1737
Sept: Ann Barker of Kempson was proposed for Membership:
October At this meeting also complaints were made of our Sister Smith
Widow for her great wickedness since the Marriage of their Daughter
to our Br Wm Woodward & Br Chandler & Br Jompson were sent
as Messengers to her to discourse her & reprove her & charge her
in the Churches name to attend the next meeting & hear their
Accusations & give an acct of her self.
Jon: Waggstaff was appointed & gave such signs of repentance
by confession & sorrow yt the Church agreed to waite longer.
Jos: Wilshire was attending He was reproved for his evill in
a Clandestine Management of the above said Marriage without the
said Widows consent or knowledge & owned his fault to the ——
Churches Satisfaction.
Now: At a Church Meeting yt Brs Jompson & Br Chandler report
ed from or concerning our Sister Smith that they received civill
treatment but could not find her sensible of her Evill nor willing
to attend the Church. & was appointed Br Carlisle & Br ——
while to attend go to her on the same Errand & w
the same charge of attendance next meeting. Ann Barker
Br White & Br Carlisle reported from our Sister Smith that
at their first going she appeared very obstinate but after
Dec: in other visitts more pliable & promised attendance next
Meeting & afterwards sent a Message she might not well be blamed
1737 & Br John Cooper & Br Nath: Jompson were
sent to her on the same Errand & ordered as the former
Messengers had been to tell her yt if she would not
attend the Church would proceed against her
Br John Cooper & Br Nath: Jompson reported from Sister
Smith yt they could see no repentance, nor any intimation
of her coming to the Church Meeting but rather refused it. & seemed
Jan 26 of her guilt of the Matter they went about.
Jews was determined to put her off from our communion
next Meeting if she did not attend & manifest repentance
for the following crimes her frequent threatenings of
murder when an opportunity should offer these were before
many persons. Her Notorious lying & prevaricating attested
by Brs Jo: Cooper Nath: Jompson & Will Tilly
Her contemptuous treatment of Religion in general &
this Church in particular attested by Ebn: Chandler &
Will Tilly lastly Her implacable & irreconciliable
disposition towards those she was offended w: & strong
determined yt these Charges & the Churches resolve should
be sent to her she being gone to sleep, this Church Meeting
yr was more yn usual time spent in prayer by a previous
appointment on her acct yt God would give her repentance
& direct & succeed us in dealing w: her.

129 At this meeting also Br Tho: Jompson & Br Sam[ll] Ainsworth reported from Sister Mary now Barker (to whom they were sent last meeting upon a complaint of her being greatly decayed in her soul & leaving off private prayers & absenting her self from the Communion of the church) yt they had been w[th] her & yt she bewailed her sad & had reformed as to prayer & appeared to be in a hopefull way of recovery in their apprehensions.

1718
2 April At a Church Meeting yt Sat. Jwas determined to wait a Month longer on Sister Mary Smith who (although when she was acquainted by Letter read to her by Br Nath: Jompson of her intended excommunication by Br Randall Taylor present manifested no sorrow, or signs of repentance, though the latter imported her excommunication fully at this meeting) manifested sorrow to our Br Taylor the last friday, & promised to give Satisfaction to all she had offended & did so ag[n] on last Monday to Br Nath: Tho: Marks (sent on purpose to perswade her to attend this day, & manifest her repentance) Expressing much sorrow & desiring patience: all the Brn present concluded Br John Cooper who protested against it, that it was duty to wait another Month, which was done.
Br Jn[o] Taylor & Br Wilks Bassterfield were then sent to John Waggstaffe to inquire into his carriage & repentance for his former sin.
Br Salisbury was ag[n] sent to by Br Shuckle & Br Nath: Jompson to perswade him to attend & clear himself of his formar reported crime or to own it w[th] sorrow if guilty
Br Tho Cooper & Br Jos: Mathury were sent to Sister Horne ag[n] to inquire after her farther recovery.

30 Apr: Br John Taylor & Br Bassterfield reported from John Waggstaffe yt he appeared very humble & Justifyed the Church & was sorry for the trouble he had given the Church — & said yt he had not been guilty of late of drinking to disorder himself though he could not say he had not drank more yn was convenient He promised to be watchfull & to shun temptations to yt sin. So yt was concluded to write on him tonight, & yt the same Brn should acquaint him yt the Church Expected he should attend this day of Solemn fasting & prayer now appointed
Br Shuckle & Br Jompson sent reported from Br Salisbury yt he appears obstinate & peremptorily refuses to attend the Church. or to give any farther acct of himself they were directed to acquaint him w[th] the day of fasting & Exhort his attendance.

1/ 1718 Br Tho: Cooper & Br Jos: Matbury reported from sister Stern alias Barker yt they find her in a hopefull, good posture of Spirit they how recovering. was determined to waite on her longer

At this meeting report was made yt Eliz: Pratt had been Guilty of great indecencyes & too great approaches to uncleanes, by an unseemly & immodest familiarity wth a Man, to the great scandall of Religion & grief of the Church & this by her owne confession to several Members, Br Tho: Cooper & Br Tho: Jonyson were appointed to go to her wth a solemn admonition in the Churches name, & Exhort & charge her to attend the next Meeting of the Church to manifest her repentance or yt the Church would forthwith proceed to excommunication they were also to Exhort her to attend the day of fasting & prayr

Report was yt made yt our Br Steven white had been guilty of several attempts of kissing his maid servant yt now lives wth him & tempting her to kiss him, & yt he hath been Guilty of such things wth others of his servants before & sinc his relation to us. this being a private offence but yet reported publickly Br Jno Bunyan & Br Jno Cooper were sent to him to lay him under admonition for his evil & to charge him to come next Meeting & manifest repentance or the Church will soon proceed further against him, & also to charge him to attend the Day of prayer & fasting.

J.B

The case of our Sister Mary Smith was agn considered she not appearing nor taking any notice of the Church sence left meeting tho she had been spoke & wrote to to attend & manifest her repentance was unanimously resolved to cut her off on the 7th of May now coming there having been reports of our Sister Smiths the Gardiners Widow having been Guilty of Extortion & oppressing the poor in her way of trade to the scandal of Religion & the great grief of those Members who heard of it, she being charged wth her Evills more privately hath humbly owned her Guilt & yt God hath convinced her of it, & given her hopes of forgivenes & recovery, & promised a totall amendment this being testified publickly by Br Chandler & owned by her at this meeting all the proceedings (otherwise necessary) were prevented & the Members satisfyed. what was offensive to sin about her sons Education was also declared to be amended Then was determined on the many uncommon cases before recorded to keep the 7th of May next as a day of Solemn fast & prayr to God for compleing mercy for the Church & the repentance of offenders & yt excommunication of our Sister Smi may be effectuall to her recovery. wch was kept accordingly. & Our Sister Mary Smith was then cast out of fellowship. & Br Marks sent to acquaint her therewith

1718 at the close of the aforementioned day of Prayer complaint
was made to the Church yt yr had been a great quarrel
betwixt Eliz: Hern alias Barton the Saturday before & fight-
-ing thereon yr to the scandal of Religion yr being a great
uproar & Neighbours obliged to run into their house to part them
& yt the fault lay at her door whereon Br John Cooper
& Br Nath: Jompson were sent to inquire into it &c
4 June At this meeting Sister Brace was propounded again for com-
-munion & it being understood yt some Members were dissa-
-tisfyed with her refusal Br Jompson the Elder Br Sam Hus-
-man & Br Jno Cooper were appointed to give her & ym
a Meeting together & report the matter to the Church.
Jt was yt determined to waite longer on our Br Jno: Hayden
He appearing truly concerned for his evills.
Eliz Barton yt appeared & justified her self in her Carriage
to her Husband but not to satisfaction, & yrfore was publickly
reproved & exhorted to a more dutifull deportment towards
him becoming the Gospell.
J B Br Salisbury was agn sent to by Br Bunyan & Br Jno Cooper
to appear & Justifie himself or owne his fault or the
Church would proceed against him.
Br White being gone to London on necessary business as
was reported matters relating to him were referred.
Sister Eliz: Peart sent a letter to the Church which contained
some acknowledgments of her sin & caused the Church to
determine to waite a meeting or two & yn to send to her agn
2 July Br Tho: Jompson Br Sam Hausman & Br John Cooper
reported yt on the meeting about Sister Brace yr was not
satisfaction given about her conduct & yrfore it was conclu-
ded to defer her reception into fellowship. Br Cooper
sent & Br Jompson sent were sent to Sister Brace to ex-
-hort her to humble her self before God to walk close w^th
him & to watch & her Mother by the same Messengers
were exhorted to keep her place in the Church & not to
conceive prejudice against any on her Daughters being
refused for the present.
Then was agreed yt Br Bigrave (viz Richard) should be &
accordingly was restored to full communion on the acct yt
Br Whitbread gave of his acknowledgments of his evills &
desiring to be restored.
Br White restored to full communion on his acknowledgment
& begging pardon of God & the Church.
It was yn proposed yt More Deacons be chosen Br Croker
growing incapable of service & the whole Burden of
the Deacons work lying on Br Randall Jayler.

3d 1710 It was concluded to pray about it & to think of proper persons by
the next Church Meeting.
for Br Jos: Wilshire & his wife (our sister) being removed to a
place near Burnt Wood by London & under the Ministry of Mr
Gooding Sent for a letter of Commendation to the Church under
his care which was read & granted at this Meeting.
Br Vincent & Br Stogdale were Sent to Eliz: Pearce to —
inquire how Matters were w^th her.
Tho: Bigrave of Cardington Sam^ll Clarkin— of this Same
place & Hannah Dell of this Town were at this Meeting
& at the Lords Supper twice propounded for fellowship.
3 Sept: At a Church Meeting then held it was resolved not to admit
any person to our Church Meetings for Church business but
Church Members or transient Members, or those propounded
There were received into fellowship Tho: Bigrave Sam^ll Clar=
=kin— & Hannah Dell.
Br Bunyan & Br John Cooper reported y^t Br Salisbury remains
inflexible & would not attend the Church, It was determined
to wait on him till next Church Meeting & y^t to come
to a conclusion what to do farther w^th or about him
Report was made y^t Br John Waggstaffe hath been again
repeatedly guilty of Drunkenness, whereon the Church again
Sent to acquaint him by Br Nath: Johnson & Br Marks, y^t if
y^r was not repentance & a continued reformation in
him the would be proceeded against to Excommunication.
Br Vincent & Br Stogdale reported from Eliz: Pearce
y^t She thought the Church charged her too highly &
were too severe against her, but could not prevail on her
to attend the Church — It was concluded to wait till
another Meeting on her. & Br Chandler promised to go to her.
1 Oct: At this meeting were propounded for communion —
Mary Earthwright of Higglesworth Mary Huckle of
Cardington & Ann Gamble of Bedford.
It was agreed & concluded y^t the fourteenth day of this Month be kept
as a day of Prayer on acc^t of Will: Salisbury who remains
obstinate, & y^t Br Savill Exhorts him to attend the days &
to acquaint him y^t the Church will proceed against him
if he remain unreclaimable & will not attend
the day of Prayer was also appointed on acc^t of John —
Waggstaffe who by the Messengers Sent to him & in person
this meeting bewails his falling repeatedly into Drunkness &
desires patience. the Church was desired to attend the day
The choice of Deacons was appointed to be a Matter of prayer th.
Eliz: Pearce was by Br Tho: Cooper desired to attend this day
The case of all disorderly walkers among us & the conflicts it is to be prayed
about

(24) 1718 19 Nov: At a Church Meeting ytt Bro John Symson of Caldington May Cartwright of Biggleswade & Anne Jarvis of Bedford were re=ceived into fellowship. John Symson was proposed on a Lords day after the last Church Meeting. Nothing further was done thy day, there being a great disturbance caused in the Church meeting by Jno Cooper the occasion of which will follow in the records of the next Church Meeting thy occasion for putting off the Lords Supper for a Month

26 Nov: At a Church Meeting called on purpose to prevent any breach among us & to heal our present divisions Br Samll Hensman ~~was admonished of very~~ Extravagant made some acknowledgment of his evill in the Extravagant passions he had been ~~in~~ & the indecent & sinfull words he had in ye utterd against our Sister Easterfields Daughter now wife to George Hensmen, but ye not being satisfaction given by him to the Church, the Matter was deferd & the disturbance ~~at~~ occasioned by Jno Cooper the meeting before was ~~by~~ upon his casting groundless reflections & reproaches on our Pastor & the Church, which in thy Meeting were cleard up to full satisfaction a particular narrative & deliquedly heard because the said Cooper fell into filthy practices was discovered, so yt twas desired there comparatively lesser offences might not be brought in charge against him, Our Br Jno: Hensman at thy meeting gave of our Br his publicke forgiving his sorrow & confession & reflecting on Br Whitbread as thy

Dec: 17 At a Church Meeting ytt the report was made yt our Br Jno Cooper had lived in notorious filthyness the not adultery it self with Mary wife widow for two or three ~~beginning~~ months, & had attempted to defile her, this was attested by the widow to Br Jompson Snr, & Br Chandler, & by ym reported to the Church — & also twas reported yt he for some months past had lived in the same Practices w^th Sister Ireland Daughter Sarah, & had actually defild her several times, this was witnessed by the person her self before Jno Cooper, & owned by him in part, to Sist: Ireland, & Sist Hen Mans in a private admonition, tho' in the first part of their discourse he denyed all, & ~~appealing~~ to God for the truth of what he said, twixt us & afterwards in part owned Matters of fact, & afterwards owned more fully by the said Jno Cooper to the forsaid persons, & Br Chandler Br Jompson Br Bunyan Br Watts & Pastor Watts. then he said ye had made us near approaches to mellowness as

5) 1718 could be but had not been actually guilty of it & yet in these
particulars he repeated under his appeal to heaven & afterwards
when charged w^th actuall uncleanness by Br Chandler, at his fathers
House did not deny it, neither when twas ag^n urged by Br
Chandler yt he should take care of appealing to god in a matter
wch he afterwards acknowledged, & this particular was mentioned
of actuall filthyness w^th our Sist: Irelands daughter before
Br Jonyson, as what he had been guilty of, did he make any
attempt to deny it
He was charged by another Sister a Widow w^th offering violence
to her a year or two past in his wives time this attested by
Br Chandler from the widowes Mouth & Sister Bulmore
was by whom ye widow made this report to Br Chandler, the
Morning of this day — this was Sister Wadsack now Brain
He was also charged w^th notorious lying in Many instances about
his Daughter Granddaughter, & Br Bunyan himself & otherwise as
well as Drunkenness, all these things were laid to his charge
before the Church, & he had been by Br Chandler desired
to be at this Church Meting, but was not, & twas yn
determined by the whole church unanimously to cut him
off from our communion, the Jews day following —
Br Jilley was appointed to acquaint him w^th our proceed
=ings, & conclusion, & to require his attendance, but
when the day came ye being some unsatisfiedness in some
Members about the Justness of his excommunication
twas determined to send Br Jilley to him ag^n, he not
appearing, & to inform him yt the church was not
fully resolved to proceed yt day, & therfore desired him to
come to make his defence, or humble himself, but
he would not come, & yn after Somtime of prayer
& consultation every Br & Sister present consenting —
fully to his being cut off, & he was cut off accordingly
at the forenoon Meting Br Jonyson was sent
Sent to Br Sam^ll Hensman to desire his forbearance
1718 of the Lords Supper till the church was satisfyed w^th
8 ber his repentance Br Watts was sent to Jn^o Legger to acquaint him w^t
14 Jan At a church Meeting ye 14th Jan^y 1718 Jn^o Hensman agreed by ye church & Br Nath: Jonyson
was sent to Br John Hensman, & his Son Sam^ll
to desire their attendance the next meeting.
Mr Tho: Woodward Jn^o Pearse, & Mary Jonyson
were propounded. & Br Tho: Jonyson, Br Georg
Huckle, & Br Jn^o Savill were nominated for Deacons
25 Feb: at a church Meeting ye 25th Br Tho: Woodward John Pearse
& Sist: Mary Jonyson were maried. Eliz: Combs propounded
Br Tho. Jonyson Jn^o Savill & George Huckle chose Deacons by
Br John Waggstaffe was ag^n sent to by Br Jos: Hathbury

& acquainted by him yt unless he gave farther satisfaction for
his sin of Drunkness he would be cut off next Meeting
Br Salisbury was sent to by Br Savill & Br Benj: Crokker
& acquainted yt we should look on his Relation to us void
if he did not come next Church Meeting & clear himself
or fall under the report formerly mentioned of him.
Eliz: Pearse was sent to by Br Jompson & Br Watts yt the
Church will not bear her treatment, & expects her appearance
Br Taylor Snr Jompson Snr Savill Huckle Vincent Sam:
Taylor Whitbread Bunyan & who els of the Brn will are
appointed to meet Jursday next Br & Sister Bayterfield be on
one side & Br Hensman on the other to hear the Matters in
1719 difference betwixt them & to labour to heal ym & make a
report of their Meeting to the Church.
1 April Eliz: Combs was received. The former mentioned Brn wch Br Chand
=ler attended the before named contending members at the meeting
appointed & made the following reports first yt there appeard
to ym no ground in what Br Sam: Hensman offered to impeach
or suspect the Chastity of Sist: Bayterfield daughter
Secondly our Br Sam: Hensman owned his fault in passion
& giving unbecoming ~~Language~~ language, but dropt his
being conscious to himself of his swearing & calling his sister
in Law whore — both wch were proved against him. as also
the charge of saying yt was brought against him.
Will Salisbury refusing to come to us & persisting in his obstinacy
as the deputed Messengers reported the Church did yt declare him
having rent himself off from us & yt the Relation he stood in
is void.
Jo: Waugstaffe appeard & Manifested great humility under publick
reproofe & yt it was determined to waite longer on him, & if he
did fall again quickly into drunkness to proceed against him
the next Church Meeting
Eliz: Pearse gave no satisfaction to the Brn sent to her, but because
of the intricacy of the case & hour determined to waite longer.
Br Jompson & Br Huckle were sent to Br Sam: Hensman to
acquaint him yt nothing short of a midyt Humble acknowledgmt
of his evills was expected from him & would be satisfactory.
Br Jho: Marks & Br Nath: Jompson were sent to Sist Barton
& inform ymselves from her touching the reports of wickedness
committed by her. a day of prayer was appointed the 14th instant
on these occasions
29 Apr: Br Marks & Br Nath: Jompson reported yt having been wch Sister Barton
they found the Sd been in a passion wth her Husband & threatned to
Cut his head off if he came near her she appeared & was publickly re
=proved but behaved her self very unbecomingly, & rudly

1719 charging the Members wth reporting lyes of her, & if they Dd not hear
y^m y^t they would make them.
Jno: Waygstaffe appeared & made an humble acknowledgment
& hope'd God would help him to walk without offence. He
appear'd sensible of & sorry for the dishonour he had caused
to God the grife he had caused to his Br & the hurt he
had done to his own Soul. all the members were pleased w^th the said.
Br Jno: Thompson reported from Sarah Hargman y^t she would
be at this meeting if she could & y^t for would pray about it, but she
not coming was concluded to waite till another meeting.

7 May Rebecca Block was propounded for communion
It appearing y^t John Waygstaffe hath been accus'd Guilty
of Drunkness was determined according to a conclu-
-sion in a former Meeting to proceed to cut him
off from our communion wth Church Meeting unless some
more y^e ordinary occurrances hindred us to which end
& Br Joseph Marbury & Br Nath Thompson were
sent to acquaint him y^rwith & to desire his attendance
the next meeting was appointed to begin at 10 of
the clock in the Morning at w^ch time is hoped
for prayer before the Church proceeded to such
an awful ordinance.

unto 24 Rebecca Block was Received & Susanah Sandford of Cardington
propounded, & Jno: Waygstaffe was cast out for Drunkness
of A long standing & many times repented of & mul-
-tiplied Aboundings.

Sept Susanah Sandford was received into fellowship & kind-
Spent in prayer on the account of the prevailing fever
& the excessive Drought.

Nov: Br Thompson & Br Sam^l Taylor were sent to Sam^l Hargrave
to inquire how she was & to charge him w^th a strange
influence of swearing in the street in an Extravagant passion
& to acquaint him y^t the Church would not bear such carriage
& to Exhort him to repentance for all charged on him
wherein some pr^s had been uneasy w^th some Carriages of Br
Bray & to be kept from the Lord Supper they now declard
by repentance to their satisfaction & the was restored.
Br Hucks & Br Savill were sent to Eliz: Harris to
inquire how she was under her evills charged on her & to
Exhort her to repentance & to come to Church Meetings
Br Thos Cooper & Br Stockdale were sent to Eliz: Barton who
had treated her Husband unbecomingly & wickedly & untrue-
-sinfully threatening ag^t to admonish her for the same
7 Dec: all the former cases were called over, & what related to Br Sam^l
Hargrave not being fully proved & charged on him as to the last
influence y^t was laid aside, but the former Miscarriages
wth the rest were withdrawn from y^r being unsatisfactory
endeavors from any of them & was agreed to wait to hear if y^t

~~28~~/1719 at the same Meeting Br Cooper & Br Simpson were sent to
Mary Sawyer to reprove her sharply for her late unsuitable Carri-
ages towards & with ye Marriage of Jno Simson a common
Drunkard.
At the same Meeting Mr Quince Robt Haynes Dorcas Broughton
Wm Manton & his wife Tho: Russell & his wife & Richard Russell
1719-20 & mrs Ams & Wid: Holmes were propounded for fellowship
6 Jan. All the formand Persons Except Mr Quince who did not attend
Dorcas Broughton who desired to stay another Month
were admitted. ~~& Tho: & Tho: Smith & his wife~~ Sarah Rogers Kath:
Salisbury mrs Wadmore mrs Skelton Sam: Pryor & Alice Boston propound
~~3 Feb. Tho: Brace Sarah Wadmore Sarah Rogers Kath: Salisbury Longford
Hill mrs Skelton. Tho Smith & his wife~~
3 Feb Mr Quince John Smith Elizabeth Smith Sam: Pryor Dorcas
Broughton Sarah Rogers & Jane Wadmore & Kath: Salisbury
were received into fellowship
Tho: Brace Sarah Parry Mrs Rush Eliz Hill & Mary
Longford were propounded.
2 March Tho: Brace Sar: Parry Ann Rush Widow Eliz Hill Mary
Longford & Eliz: Skelton were received into fellowship &
Mary — Salisbury propounded.
~~30 March Tho: Brace Sarah Parry Ann Rush Eliz: Hill Mary &~~
30 March 1720 Mary Salisbury was received & Eliz: Upwood Propounded
30 March Eliz: Upwood was received & Mary Randall propounded
~~27 March~~ 27 April Mary Randall was received & Sarah Holmes & Winifred
~~1 April~~ Cradock propounded for fellowship. & Mr Woodward propos
~~29 June~~ ~~or the office of~~ Dr. to the consideration of the
Church in order to be ~~by~~ chosen a Deacon.
29 June Winifred Cradock & Sarah Holmes were received into fellowship
Br Jno: Woodward was unanimously desired to Exercise the office
of A Deacon on Tryall w^ch hope he formerly on Tryall
A Message was sent by Br Joseph Mattbury to Mary Sawyer
now Simpson not to come to the Lords Supper till her
carriage & conversation is more agreeable to the Gospell
she behaving her self very unbecomingly in her generall
Deportment.
27 Octo: Henry Hurst was propounded for Fellowship & a day of
Prayer appointed on the account of the danger of the
plague. ~~& another~~ the week following
24 Nov: Henry Hurst ~~was~~ propounded & received into fellowship, at the same
time Mrs Preston was received by dismission from Mr Moon
time Mary Watts was received by dismission from Mr Moon
of Northampton — which dismission was ~~followed~~ signed
by Mr Moore & five Br^n more at their Church Meeting the 26 Octo: Last
4 June Mrs Pearson was received into ~~dismiss~~ communion & Jno:
Larkins Propounded. at the same Meeting our Pastor Jacobs

1720 otherwise Hawking letter was read desiring a dismission to the Baptist Church
under M^r Skip at London but the Church took time to deliberate upon an
answer to her till the next Church Meeting.

1720 Jn^o Larking was received into fellowship. At the same Meeting Sis Cooper
formerly cast out for his great Wickedness sent a letter to the Church
w^ch is as followeth

There are 2 instances at the bottom of this page of the Church refusing to dismiss a member
to a Church that held communion only with believers baptized by immersion. *
see also page 88 & 101

The Church took time to deliberate on an answer & sent the
following answer, that whereas He Facitly condemned the Church
for Rashly casting him out the first thing the Church Expected
from him before they would hear his reasons proposed was to
Vindicate the Church in what he had done by owning the
equity & regularity of the Sentence, & after that a desire
to debate the matter w^th the Pastour & some both He should on
notice given have an opportunity to do so & if the reasons
He should be urged for the Churches proceeding in his case were
not satisfactory He might take his Liberte of Appealing to
other Churches.

1 March The Church concluded not to dismiss Ann Futtle to ^and
* Skip because He & his People were for communion w^th Baptiz
Believers only, & yet by Immersion.

1721 29^d March Mary Harvy Daughter of our Sister Mary Harvy of
Kingston was proponed for fellowship.

5 May Mary Harvy was received into fellowship & Sis Cox
of Kingston proponed for it.

2 June M^rs Cox was Received & Russell proponed & Br Cox
* Br Thompson appointed to dismiss her. M^rs Stubbs Sent to
dismissed to ^and Arnauds of London; but was refused the Church being Bap

1722 about the beginning of the year

Br Samll Hensman was received wth satisfaction
Sist: Jompson reproved for Drunkenes which She acknowledged & appeared Penitent
Mary Sympson of St Mary's Parish sent to about her disorderly walking by Br Savil and & She fell kindly under her faults, & has restored to full communion
Br White sent to by Br Woodward & Br Mathews about kissing his Maid
Sister Rugby of Sutton dismissed to Br Hensman of Yarnton
Br Odel Received being propounded before

3 July 1723 or 23 Sept 1723

Br Hurst sent to by Br Woodward & Br Jompson upon a complaint of Immodest actions with another Mans Wife but He wholly denys the Charge; & was desired to forbare the Lords Supper
~~Br Roger Read being propounded before~~
Sister Ann Peck of Kidlington propounded & Received
Br Pearce of Harrold sent to for his not keeping his place in the Church at any ordinances. He came to Br Chandler & declared his affection to the Church, & owned yt distance of way & much business together with spiritual Infirmities were the only Reasons & promised to attend the Church Meeting.
Eliz: Pearce & Eliz: Barton were sent to by Br Randal Taylor & Br Jno Whitehead but they both insisting on their own Vindication was determined to wait a little longer on them.
Br Jho: Hubbard was sent to several times in this year by Br Jho: Jompson - & afterwards by Him & Br Savil to know the reasons of his absenting Himself from his communion. but He would not give them an opportunity of discourting wth Him.

1723 29th Jan: 9

At a Church Meeting yt first report was made of our Br Simon Jompsons continuing the Sin of Drunkenes & to a greater degree than formerly in the Church then appointed Br Randal Taylor & Br Jno Savil to go to him to appear next Church Meeting & to give his Reasons why He should not be kept out of communion or we shall quickly proceed to do it
Br Henry Hurst was charged with Card playing in a publick House, & yt for was sent to agn by Br Baskerville & Br Nath: Jompson with a reproof from the Church for so doing, it being judged an unlawful Game & what the Church will not allow in her Members, & the Brn were also to discourse with him about the former Charge of Immodesty, which He had denyed and to acquaint him yt the Church requires his attendance next meeting
Br Savil & Br Baskerville were sent to Mrs Smith to reprove her for her late Running into so many peoples debts especially poor People, & then breaking to the reproach of the Gospel.

26 Febr:

At a Church Meeting yt held at Bedford the Messengers from Mrs Smith reported yt She appeared very sensible of her evills & Humble under them for the dishonour done to the Name of Christ & it appeared yt She has made payment to the poor She Intended & would make payments to others so far as was possible & prove further Forwardness against her were desired, tho leave to come to the Lords Supper was not yet granted her.

(131) 1723 the Messengers sent to him: Jompson reported yt he could what ye charges on him & justifie the Church in their proceedings even in excommunicating if it should pass on him, but said he could not appear before the Church it was determined to send two Admonition men to him by Br Wordward & Br Sam: Hargreave with an express declaration yt if yr was not a present reformation of his Drunkenness he would forthwith be proceeded against before & the Messengers were ordered to insist strenuously on his attendance next Church Meeting.

Information was given yt Jno: Brace had been sundry times guilty of the sin of Drunkenness, & Br Baskerville & Br Sam: Taylor were sent to admonish him thereof & to charge him to come the next Church Meeting & give an acct of himself in this matter, we hope in a way of Repentance.

Br Baskerville & Br Jompson reported from Br Hurst yt the person in an absolute denial of the charge of immodesty formerly mentioned & yr being no proof here concluded to leave it to Divine providence for discovery if he be guilty or to the day of Judgment. as to the new charge of his playing at Cards in a publick Ale House he confessed his fault, w[th] shame to the Messengers, & promised better deportment. they were ordered to go to him again, & acquaint him the Church doth positively insist on his appearing next Meeting, & clearing himself of the two charges & manifest his repentance of the other.

Complaint was also made yt Br Jno Pearce of Harrold had been often guilty of Drunkenness, & he owning it in some measure under his own hand in a letter sent Br Chandler, was determined a letter of reproof should be sent him, which Br Chandler himself undertook to do, & yt he be directed to attend the next Meeting.

1724 ~~26 March~~ 1 April Br Taylor & Br Savil were this meeting sent to Eliz: Pearce to acquaint her yt the Church would withdraw from her totally next Meeting if she did not appear & own what she charged with or justifie her self.

Ellen being complaint made yt Eliz: Wright the Servant Maid of Edmund Riddle of Cardington had been guilty of Lewdness practices in receiving from yd Whitbreads Servts: or in taking privately of the Masters victuals out of the house Br Huckle & Br Jompson were sent to admonish them of their Evill & to charge them to Attend the next Meeting to give an account of themselves.

Br Pearce not appearing was determined to wait another Meeting on him

Eliz: Barton ~~the~~ sent to by Br Jho Croker & Br Sam[l] Hargreave to attend next Meeting & give an account of her self with respect to former charges.

Sim: Jompson did not appear, & Information being given yt he since the last Meeting having been Drunk, & in his Drunkenness stole from some Scotch Men to the value of five or Eight pound, & the proof being full was determined to cut him off from Communion the 15th instant, notice of which was sent him by Br Watts, & he was accordingly cut off that day.

Br Brace appeared & himself owned his sin of Drunkenness to the Satisfaction of the Church, & was charged to shew his sincere repentance by his future behaviour, & to invite the Churches time for his full communion at least till next Church Meeting.

Br Jompson from Br Hurst intimated yt he would appear this Meeting but did not & this Br w[th] Br Baskerville were ag[n] sent to Br Hurst to insist on his appearing before the Church.

132) 1724
29 April Eliz: Pearce appeared & delivered a letter under her own hand — which was as follows, & was to general & great Satisfaction Sayt all proceedings of declaring Non communion w^th her were stopt, & she desired to walk close with God & to waite on the Church till she should be restored to full communion —

Eliz: Barton appeared & gave full Satisfaction about what had been alledged against her formerly.

~~Eliz: Wright appeared~~ Susan: Riddle attended but Eliz: Wright could not she being a Nursing but by letter promised she would next Meeting & the affair relating to y^m both was deferd.

Our B^r. could not get B^r Hurst to meet them but Spent 2 or 3 hours at Quaits when the Messengers sent to him & would have talked w^th him

3 June Will: Wilshire m^rs Elizabeth Green. & Jane Davenport — were this day propounded for fellowship. & also Ann Lightwood & Grace Adams. Our B^r Sheldon then requested his dismission from this Church to the Church of Christ in St Neots; He being called to the Pastoral office in y^t Church & it was granted him.

It was determined at this meeting to send B^r Stockdale & B^r Tho: Ruth to Henry Hurst to acquaint him y^t He is afresh accused by Mary Waggstaffe of great indecencies & immodest actions towards her — May Our Pastor had from her month the fifteenth of April last and y^t He is desired to come to the next Church Meeting & answer for himself, & also to acquaint him y^t He is desired to forbear the Lords Supper till the Church is satisfyed w^th him, as to his Innocence or Repentance if Guilty.

The case of Eliz: Wright & Susan: Riddle is deferd the former being sick & not capable of Attending

B^r Huckle was appointed to visit Sister Woodrow & to Exhort her to keep her place in the Church or to give the reasons of her absence.

Our B^r Woodward B^r Huckle & B^r Savil having by the Suffrages of the Ch^e been called to the office of Deacons ~~before exercised~~ & having Exercised it an Tryal for a great while, were determined to come to a conclusion whether to install them or no y^m & if to be installed then to fix the time next Meeting.

1724 2d July Wid: Wilshire Eliza: Green Jane Davenport & Grace Adams & Ann Sightwood were received into fellowship Tho: Rigus & Sara Wilshire was propounded per communion the first Lords day in August.

Our sister Barton was restored to full communion & rising satisfaction received

It was now agreed yt Eliz: Pearse should be registered next Meeting

It was determined to waite on Br Hunt till next Meeting

It was then agreed to dismiss those Members that live about Blunham yt should desire it to the Church newly gathered there tho' yet with a Letter upon their coming to the Lords Supper before their dismission to shew that they were in perfect Charity with their Brn & did depart peaceably and accordingly the following Persons coming to the Lords Supper Except Mary Walker whose weakness of Body Excused her & desiring their dismission had it according to Church appointment Granted & sent them viz Mary Walker Joseph Star & his Wife John Pryor & his wife Thomas Hubbard & his wife. Thomas Sweetman. Dorothy Bunting now Jaglisby & Henry Huckle.

It was then determined to consider of the Election & Instalment of the Deacons next Meeting

Susanah Riddle then appeared & with an appearing humility & sorrow owned the Wickedness she had been accessary in stealing from Mr Whitbreads House. & also receiving from the Servants several things for food as Meat drink flower Milk Suet & Eggs, but Eliz: Wright not being capable of appearing by reason of things a final conclusion was deferd, & Br Huckle was sent to Br & Sister Whitbread to acquaint them with the whole affair for or in order to their satisfaction

2 September at a Church meeting then held Thomas Rigus & Sarah Wilshire of Bedford were received into fellowship & Bro: Green propounded

Eliz: Pearse was then restored to full communion

Eliz: Wright then attended & publickly owned yt she had offered a Lye to hide a fault, & seemed greatly unconcerned to the great surprize of the whole Church, she was sharply reproved for yt & her other misbehaviour before recorded as receiving food &c from Mr Whitbreads Servants & maliciously disclosing Susan Riddles faults to get her out of Mrs Whitbreads favour (for her self being turned off) tho she knew of them long before, & also for her advising her to deny her Crimes when Charged with them, they were both left by from the Lords Supper till satisfaction might be received touching their repentance. Susan: Riddle appeared penitent but was desired to forbear coming to the Lords Supper till further fruits of repentance appear

Information was given yt Tho: Sweetman walked disorderly in abusing himself very frequently from all Publick worship & being too hasty in his Carriage & it was determined y't A Letter of reproof should be sent him & he ordered to attend the next Meeting

Complaint was made yt John Pearse was guilty of ungodly Carriage & Br Savil & Br Huckle were appointed to discourse with him about them by way of inquiry & reproof & to order his attendance next Meeting — Henry Hunt appeared & owned his having been guilty of indecency with Mary Wagstaffe a Maiden but denyed any attempts of uncleanness, he owned also his too carnal walking & promised a better Behaviour but there not appearing yt repentance his case was referred for the Lords Supper & he ordered to attend next Meeting

30 Sept: At a Church Meeting then held Bro: Green of Ampthill was
1724 received into fellowship
Report was made by Br Huckle & Br Savil y^t Jno Pearse appeared in
some measure concerned for his Evils owned the Sin of Drunkenness
charged on Him & high. & sinfull words spoken by Him tho' denyed
his being Guilty of uncleanness desired the prayers & patience of the
Church .. was determined to send Br Savil agn to him to acquaint
Him at the Church . would waite on him for some time & y^t if y^re
not a thorow reformation . the Church would proceed to cut him off.
J was determined to come to a conclusion next Meeting about our
former Sisters some years ago chosen for Deacons Br Woodward
Br Savil & Br Huckle , & have. Exercised y^t office ever since Either
to confirme their Election . & to appoint a day for their Solemn
Separation . or to set them by & chose others in their Room
Eliz: Wright sent a letter to the Church owning her conviction of her
Wickedness & her great sorrow for it & begd to be restored to her place
in the Church . shall think fit. she was sent by Br Simpson to write

11 Nov: At a Church Meeting y^e 11th Mrs Sarah Woodward was propounded
for fellowship
Mrs Kalo who had been a Member with us, removing her Habitation to
London sent her Let^r to a Baptist congregation under Mr Arnold the first
writing to us for a dismission which we refused, because they had no
communion with us as Believers upon Baptisme by Immersion only & being
now returned to this Town . again requested her being restored to full
communion, & produced a recommendatory letter to y^t End, but the
letter being only from Mr Arnold was conducted to desire her to send
for a full dismission in order to her being received amongst us & Br
Savil was appointed to acquaint her herewith.
Richard Swarmain not appearing nor sending any letter was
determined to wait to another Meeting upon Him
Others being frash reports of Jno Pearse his wicked conversation was
concluded y^t particular Enquiry should be made into his miscarriages
& the proof of them . y^t we may proceed to cut it off if the matter
appear plain & are well proved. Br Chandler undertooke to get the
Enquiry made.
Susan: Kidd having satisfactorily manifested Repentance was agreed
to restore her to full communion next Meeting if nothing new appears.
Br Bigrave sent to acquaint her herewith
At this meeting the former Election of Br Woodward Br Huckle
& Br Savil to the Deacons office was confirmed by the Church & also
accepted by them & their implament by prayer fixed for next Meeting
y^t to begin at Eleven of the clock.

9th Dec: Mrs Sarah Woodward was received into fellowship and
Rob^t Mow Ann Wiggin & Mary were propounded
Tho: Brain was publickly reproved for being present in
an Ale house at Gaming & laying wagers about the Game
One shilling & Eightpence Pence a Wager & lost & spend
three half shillings & four pence

35/ 1724 Sarah Riddle was restored to full communion

6 Jan[y] John Tompson & young Widow Arter were propounded.
And Ann Wiggins & Mary [illegible] were Received into fellowship —
Eliz: Wright being reported by Br Hicks & Br Tompson were
appointed to discourse closely with her about her failings
formerly charged on her & to inquire how the Brethren
at Carrington stood affected to her being restored again

3 Feb: Jn[o] Tompson & the Young Widow Arter were revived into Communion
& Mary Higins was propounded for fellowship
at the same Meeting Eliz: wright appeared & on a publick reproof owned her
evills charged on her formerly & begged pardon & declared her willingness to
wait the Churches time for her being restored to her place.

3 March Mrs Sarah Mary Higins was revived into fellowship
1725
28 May Mrs Stogdale was received into full communion by dismission from the
Church at Kilkhin under Mr Needhams care.
at the same Meeting Br Audley who hath removed his habitation somewhat
beyond St Neots & so not capable of filling up his place with us was upon
his own request dismissed to the Church of christ in St Neots under the
care of the Brethren

2 June At a church Meeting then held was concluded to send a letter by Mr Chandler
to Jno Peart to attend the next meeting
Br Woodward & Br Baskerville were sent to Br Hunt & Br Brace to
discourse fully with them about their raines & walk & to injoyn them
to attend the Church Next Meeting.
Agreed to have private inspection made who absent themselves from
the Lord supper yt proper measures may be taken with them.

30 June Eliz: Wright was restored to full communion having given satisfaction
as to her repentance of the Evills charged upon her
Br Woodward & Br Baskerville reported from Br Brace yt he appears
sencible of his evills & Humble owning his intemperate
drinking & the foolish sinful consequents of it & was willing to reform
=ation & was thus resolved to fix a time for Excommunication if he was not a
Br Hunt reformation.
Br Hunt owned also to them his foolish conduct in going to cock
fighting playing at Nine pins & quarls two or three times each
& practises not suitable to his profession & promised reformation
they neither of them appear at the Meeting the desired so to do
Br Hunt although the making things publick to the Church & to many by
the unadvised talking of some Members, & said he was ready to
make acknowledgment to any Br yt should come to him for yt End

On a Lords day following Ruth Mraze Widow was propounded for
Church Fellowship —

29 Sept: Ruth Mraze was received into fellowship
Br Hensman was sent to Br Hunt to discourse with him about his
using childish practises & to dissuade him from them & charge him
to attend the next Church Meeting, & to acquaint him yt if he continue
to absent himself from the church We shall declare him Rent off
Br Savill was sent to Br Brace once more to reprove him for his con
tinued practise of Intemperance & to assure him yt if yr be not a refor
=mation & Manifestation of Repentance next Church Meeting We shall fix a
day then to cut him off from our Communi

1.136)

27 Octo: Br Flansman reported his having been with Br Hurst who sayd that He had been found in those Exercises that were charged on Him since the promised forbearance & should continue to give no offence but could not make any publick acknowledgment because yr were such constant reports of all done in Church Meetings to the worst yt gave some intimation of his being at the next Church Meeting.

But this Meeting Br Saml reported from Br Brace yt He found him humbled under his sufferings, & yt yr had been a Reformation

24 Nov: Br Brace so far as he could be framed continued reformed.

Whereas yr was an unhappiness in our Sister Brace touching the admission of Ruth Meade Br Joyner & Br Woodward were sent to reconcile them & could not & Br Stoddale & Br Watts were sent ag[n] to endeavour it & to tell Sister Brace yt the Church who had had a hearing of the matter could not come to any Sist: Meade to set down at the Lords table. but before that time came they were reconciled

27 Dec: Mrs Quarry (tho greatly or mostly a stranger being lately come to this Town) was propounded for Fellowship some having discoursed with her & having grounds from it to hope her to be one called by grace.

1st Feb Deborah Quarry was received into Fellowship

There being a Difference between Sister Stoaks & Sister Craddock Br Saml Br Flansman & Br Woodward were appointed to labour to reconcile them

Complaint being made yt Br Hurst continued his practice of gaming Br Clark was sent once more to acquaint him that if He did not forbear ~~the church~~ & attend the Meetings of the Church We should quickly declare him a person yt hath Cast himself off from our Communion

Information was given yt Thomas Brace went to our Br Woodward & owned his having been lately overtaken w[th] too much Drink & yt He promised a ~~to~~ total forbearance of strong Drink in Publick Houses, & if He could not govern himself at Home He would Drink none at all. this coming from himself & not being charged w[th] the ingrained sin of Drunkenness, it was determined to wait longer on him for his thorow reformation

1 March. our Br[n] composed the difference between Sister Stoaks & Sister Craddock

Br Clark reported from Henry Hurst yt He was drawn away & could not withstand gaming, but he did not like evil[l] it & he might do as he please. I was determined to withdraw totally from Him at next Meeting

1726

27 April It was now reported yt Br Hurst had been notoriously drunk since our last Church Meeting in March, & after debate about him it was concluded to forbear withdrawing from him this Meeting, & to charge his sin of Drunkenness upon Him which Br Chandler undertook to do, & if He did not humble himself in it to cut him off at next meeting if He did not come & own his manifest repentance for his great sin

3/ 1726
at May 8th Hurst acknowledged his having been drunk, but said yt twas accidental as it
indeed appeared to the Church, & promised care for the future & yrfore upon his
appearing sorrow proceeding against him on yt account was forborn
Determined them to decide Henry Hurst out off next meeting if he did not appear
Sent him Notice by Br Tilly.
next meeting
31 August agreed to appoint a day to cast out Tho: Brace if he next meeting
He did not appear & prevent it by some tokens of repentance & reformation
& sent him notice of it by Br Tilly. He having often reproved his drunkenness
The Meeting before this Henry Hurst continuing his practice of gaming
& disorderly walking & from time to time refusing to come to the Church
We unanimously declared Him rent off from our fellowship, & yt we were
no more concerned wth Him as a Member with us. We sent an account of
it to him & Br Church
Grace Laine was yn propounded for communion.
Samll Kendall requested communion but some Brn complaining of his
having some old notions in matters of Religion which might disturb the
peace of the Church Br Chandler undertook to discourse wth him wth Br
Woodward & Br Hausman who were appointed yrto, & they upon discourse
found the charge true He asserting the Soul was perfect & did not & could
not sin but yt sin was only in the Body. & appearing otherwise in other
instances Ecclesiastical was judged best to defer his admission.
determined them to cut off Tho: Brace not longer on Tho: Brace He appearing &
making some show of repentance & desiring further forbearance
28 October Received Grace Laine into fellowship & propounded Mrs Church
29 November Received Mrs Church & propounded Mary Compson
18 Jan: Received Mary Compson. The Lord took Br Brace away by death
some time past & so prevented our further proceedings about him.
1727 May information was given yt our sister — Grey of Muggerhanger
had been guilty of Adultery, many times by her own confession. to Br
Huckle for which twas resolved to cut her off from our communion
next Church Meeting. this confession was in part made before to Mr Hubbard
— Grey was cast out by an unanimous suffrage.
31 May — twas yn agreed to send a letter of Recommendation for transient —
communion to Mr Hall of London on the behalf of our sister Deborah
Quarry at her own request she being removed for settled residence to London.
Our Br Sam: Parking was retored to full communion. He having been desirous
to forbear the Lords Supper for some Months past upon the account of some
unbecoming Carriages which gave offence to some Brethren at Carrington
such as unbecoming passions & too near approach to Evil, but at this
meeting those Brethren did declare their satisfaction as to this latter —
Deportment & behaviour. Thirs. a day of Prayer was appointed for
the sixth of June on the account of the great ruine & for a revival
of Religion amongst us & for the success of the word in conversion work
and for those yt have been cast out or rent themselves off from us.
& also for the state of the nation yt having been a prospect of evil days
ages of Peace lastly for our Children.
After more yn two years no Member added but very many dyed, to be removed
Thirs. Aug 1729 Br Stringer was Received into fellowship having been propounded
before — Sr Tho Rush having been overtaken with drink was desired
forbear the Lord Supper & did afterwards make a satisfactory acknowledgm
& was restored to full communion again.

1729 In this year 1729 Sampson Jackson a Member of Mr Wayman's having his occasional Communion with us Information was given yt She was under dealing by the Church. under Mr Wayman yt here She was desired to forbare getting Dismission with us till the Church She belonged to shuld certifie by Letter by bring restored by them wch they did June 1730.

1730 April May Mary Hunger alias Bar was proposed for Communion & the former Month was received

Aug: 8 Eliz: Thos 8 Eliz: Perry & Cyprian Gale were propounded the 2d of August & all Received the Second of September

Octo Sarah Groves was propounded the Second Lords day in October Nove & Received the 6th of November

December 1730 Saint: Philemon was propounded for fellowship: & She was received

1731-2 the Next Church Meeting

3 Feb Will Pryor valure Rufh Mary Sudbury & Mary Dafter were propounded for fellowship

1 March The four Persons before named were received into Communion

1732 29 March James Clan Sarah Higgs Widow Hester Higgs & Katherine Lyon were propounded for fellowship

2 May Sarah Higgs Widow & Hester Higgs were received into fellowship

31 — Joseph Hasler was propounded for fellowship

27 Sept: Joseph Hasler was received into fellowship.

In June or May this year Mr Hunt of Newport declard & brought in writing an account of his & his Wifes formerly of Bedford & a Member in ye but cast out long since & her Repentance & how the Church being satisfied in it restored her, & she being settled at Newport Regularly dismissed her to him. & the Widow Sabury & the Widow Allen were propounded — Received in May after & the Widow Robinson — with them. Mr Woodward Mr Savil & Mr Stockdale

~~1733~~ Sent to Newenton to desire a dismission for Mrs Stocks who come among us only for Letter dismission being in Charity with Pastor & Members there, but their Request for her was denied

10 May Br Hemenway & Brother Woodward Sent to Sister Harris about her not coming to her place amongst us as a Member She declard She could not by reason of age & further declared yt She was satisfied to go to the Church of England & did & it was declard

Xpian yt She had kept her self off from the communion of this Church

Sister Cooper of or near Pluggertauney received again into communion on her giving Satisfaction yt God had given her Repentance & was received first Lords day in June

Eliz: King was propounded formerly for Communion & Received for the first

Susan the first day of the Lords day in June

29 August Received Hannah Perring was propounded in May. A day of prayer at

Setington Registrant was proposed & kept

Oct: Elizabeth Bithrey propounded & Received in December the 19th following

27 Brethren Woodward & Mary Sisters propounded 27 February & received the third of April

The Widow Coe & the Widow Gadson were propounded 23 January. & Received the Widows.

39 April 4th 1735

~~April 25th Sister Sweeney & Sister Adams Both of Godmanchester were propounded & received~~
~~for further Instruction & Sister Adams Both of Godmanchester were propounded & received~~
~~the May following. & the old Widow Hemington with them.~~

1735 1 May Br Jno. Marks having cut his throat, & the wound not proving Mortal was sent to by
Br Wellfare & Br Tilley to forbear the Lords Supper & to repent of his great sin
& to walk circumspectly for the time to come
Then also Rich. Russell was sent to by Mr Savil & Br Redman to desire him to forbear
the Lords Supper & Repent of & abstain from the sin of Drunkenness He lay tranquilly off.
Mary Symson sent to by Br Mathews & Br Huckle to forbear the Lords Supper
till she give a Satisfactory account of her Repentance for her Irregular walking
in profaning the Lords day by carrying about garden things on the Lords day to Gods Honour
& five more instances walking disorderly for wch she was long since reproved, & yet came
to the Lords Table without Leave or knowledge of the Church or manifesting Repentance

29 May Martha Bromsall & Mary Staunch were propounded & received the third of July after
October Mrs Stokes her admission to transient communion was again urged some Bren
appearing against it

12 November It was yn proposed to choose two more Deacons for this Town & the Bren were
desired to consider of two they think proper & to come to a Conclusion next Church Meeting

1 Sister Sarah Simons having been propounded some time way at this Meeting Received

Sister Pike was then propounded for communion.

December 12 Robert Huckle was yn then propounded for communion & yn
also Br Vincent & Br Stockdale were proposed for Deacons & the Bren were
desired to consider of the proposal till next Church-Meeting & if any Br had
a mind to propose any other Br or Brn for yt office they He the full Liberty

Jan: 8th at a Church Meeting yn Robert Huckle & Ester Pike were received
The Affair concerning chusing Deacons was defer'd for the present.

Feb 4 At a Church Meeting yn Martha Bell was propounded for communion.

March 4th At a Church-Meeting yn Martha Bell was Received into communion.
It was yn determined that the next Church-Meeting our two Bren yt are under Nomination
for Deacons should be proposed to the Suffrage of the Church & if
they were chosen by a Majority, they should be desired to officiate as Deacons for
some time on tryal, & their approbation of their Conduct they should be Solemnly
Ordained to the office of Deacons amongst us, they were desired in prayer for them

1736 April 1st At a Church Meeting yn this after prayer to see Br Vincent & Br Stockdale were
Unanimously Chosen to the office of Deacons by the Suffrages of the Bren, & yn desired
to Enter on the office for tryal in order to their Ordination if approved of by the Church
Br Woodward & Br Mathews were desired to inquire into the Reports & Behaviour
Russell under admonition for disorderly walking. & Br Wellfare & Br
Jno: Rogers were desired to reconverse with Mary Symson about her Circum-
stances, & both to make a report next Church Meeting.
Br Tilly & Br Jonipson were Sent to Br Marks to desire him
to attend the next Church Meeting & give an account of the disposition of
his Mind Relating to the offence yt he has been withdrawn from, & what his ground
of hope or Expectations from the Church are yt the Church may on seeking the Lord
why he has come to a conclusion what to do.

17
5
85

+ Since this List there have been 3 more taken — one in 1754. see Page 12 — another in 1761. see Beginning of this Book — & a third 1767. see the other end of the Book

Samuel Sanderson came first to Bedford, Feb 26. 1736/37 and was ordained Copastor with Mr Chandler May 14th 1740 Mr Chandler was totaly laid aside from his public Work, ye Beginning of March 1743-4; and died the 24th of June, 1747.

Mr Sanderson died 24 Jan. 1766

A List of the Church taken Aug 31. 1741.

(Brethren)

Mr Robt Chandler
Sam. Sanderson
George Huckle
Jno. Savill dead
Tho. Woodward dead
Jno. Stockdale dead
James Taylor of Biggleswade dead
Benj. Crocker dead
Joseph Willshor dead
Tho. Roman dead
Nath. Thompson dead
Willm Tilley dead
Tho. Negus dead
Danl Negus dead
Willm Willshor
Willm Prior
Tho. Palmer dead
Willm Nottingham rem'd off
Tho. Rush
Joseph Frostove
Willm Odell
Benj. Green of Ampthill dead
Sam. Prior
Sam. Larkins
Jno. Larkins
Tho. Bigrave dead
Sam. Whiteman dead
Robt Huckle dead
Willm Manton dead
Rob. Haines of Roynald dead
Jno Smith of Wilden dead
Richd. Rufsel of Oakley dead
Jno. Jackson dead
Jno. Thompson Biddenham dead
Tho. Brown London dead
Dr. Stringer Newcastle under Line
Sam. Crocker
Philip Smith of Newington
Joseph Mackonoss of Wooton dead
Jno. Rowton dead
Jno Fannen admitted since ye above List was taken
Francis Greathead of Biddenham rem'd off.

Deacons dead

Willm Cox of Fennlake
Francis Jennings dead
Willm Block of Wooton
Jonathan Negus
Henry Slack of Ilston
Israel Mitchel of Cranfield left out
Willm Malden of Ilstow
Charles Thompson dead
Isaac Faith of Kimpton
Tho: Cooper of Stony Stratford
Jno Salisbury of Ilstow
Joseph Ruthead dead
William Brown
Samuel Walton dead
Thomas Wainwright
Joseph Negus
William Nilles

omitted in this list before the other was taken 1761.

John Rush
Henr Capey dead
Thr Pearson

Richd Smith dead
Saml Palmer Hackney
Wm Smith
Thr Leach near 66 Ebenezer Cheston & Wm Skillington
Steph Odell
John Manning
John Whiteman
Wm Negus.

Wm Raynor
Wm Bull
Edwd Manning

But there was another list taken 1754 wch contains the above

(Sisters) (p 141)

Sarah Willshor dead
Sarah Negus dead
Susan. Tilley dead
Catherin Fooks of Kings Warden m. Hartford Shire
Ann Preston at Walden
Eliz. Wright of Cardington
Sarah Ireland dead
Tabitha Wright now at Bourton
Mary Savill dead
Mary Wagstaff dead
Eliz. Muns dead
Martha Spring dead
Sarah price late Stockdale dead
Ann Bean dead at London
Ann. Tootall at London
Eliz. Baskerville dead
Eliz. Fooks of Ilstow dead
Eliz. Wells on Nooding worth
Eliz. Carver dead
Mary Pearce dead
Mary Chandler
Mary Simpson
Hannah Frostove
late Sawyer
Mary Negus late Arms dead
Sarah White dead
Ann Edwards
Ann Crook
Eliz Chickley
Ann Shorman
Mary Wooton of Godmanchester dead
Eliz. Gri[illegible]
Sarah Simpson dead
Eliz. Pearce alias Benson
Eliz. Pearce
Alice Thompson dead
Jane Marks
Ann Jackson
Martha Bolle
Ann Thompson
Martha Brompstle
Mary Langford
Grace Paine
Eliz. King late Ivot dead
Ann Gabson dead
Jane Wadmore dead
Abigal Muns

142

(Sisters)

Hannah Perring dead
Mary Field dead
Esther Pyke dead
Joanna Taylor alias Robinson dead
Dorcas Wooton Clare dead
Sarah Philipps dead
Mary Negus dead
Eliz. Stockdale dead
Eliz Odell dead
Vol. Rush dead
Mary Franklin dead
Eliz Woodward withdrawn
Ann Belsham
Frances Sanderson
Hannah Negus
Hannah Watts
Eliz. Crocker
Sarah Groves
Lydia Gale
Ann Peck
all dead
Ann Light wood dead
Mary Arne of Stagsdon
Eliz King of Wildon
Rebecca Block of Wildon dead
Ann Madbury dead
Susan Marshall dead
Mary Harvey dead
Sarah Harvey Sherman
Mary Ford alias Abbot dead
Wm. Cradock
Ann Cox of Elston
Eliz Hill of Elston
dead
Susan Riddle of Cardington dead
Eliz. Simpson of Cardinton
Dorothy Manton dead of Cople
Hannah Willimot
all dead
Mary Thompson dead
Widow Allen of Goldington
Mary Sudbury Ditto
Widow Stoakes of Oakley
Mary Gordon of Cambridge
Sarah Ramsden in Essex dead
Widow Turner of Hitchin

(Sisters)

Mary Carslops alias Chester dead
Mary Walton dead
Sarah Broadhall, Waldn dead
Martha Lott of Turvey dead
Eliz. Peck. dead
Susan Barker alias Wood dead
Ann Mackness. dead
Mary Fannch now White dead
Sarah Hitchcock
Eliz. Chapman admitted since the above List was taken
Widow Corkett. dead
Rediviva Mathews died 1 Sept. 1779
Sarah Barnes
Eliz Wagstaff dead
Mary Sudbury Junr. all dead
Martha Cowdale
Ann. Barker dead
Mary Stoakes went off.
Mary Greene Jennings IN
Rachel Woodward Hopkman went off
Dorcas Broughton dead
Eliz. Fannch of Kempston dead
Mary Crook of Bromham dead
Martha Woodward of Goldington dead
Mary Salisbury of Kempstone.
Mary Wooton
Mercy Perrin
All dead
Mary Baset of Milton dead
Eliz Pearse junior dead
Ann Yarrow
Eliz Sympson
Eliz. Ruthead
Hannah Barker
Mary King.
Sarah Fanch.
Martha Woodward.
Elizabeth Brown
Susan: Morris of Elstow
Christian Tall.
Ann Greene
Sarah Hill
Mary Camkin
all dead
Ann. Taylor dead
Sarah Odell dead
Martha Tansley of Renhes dead
Catherine Reynolds dead
Mary Smith dead

Ann Kilpin Junr. dead
Mary Kilpin Junr.
Ann Groves
Ann Fairchild went off
Mary Eagle Dead
Elizabeth Lyon
Sarah Lyon Junr.

Junr. omitted in this List before the other was taken 1761.

Hannah Shepherd dismissed 1763.
Sarah Stockdale dis 13 Jan. 1775 withdrawn
Mary Palmer
Eliz. Custerton
Mary Hardwick
Hannah Larkin no dead
Eliz Ruckle dead
Sarah Woodward dead
Sarah Woodward Junr
Eliz Shuttle
Abigail Wells
Mary Bull dismissed

but there was another List taken 1754 which contains the above. see page 12.

Memorandum

the following persons are under Doulings

Rich[d] Russel, for Intemperence

Mary Arms; for. being concernd with her Sister in a notorious Fraud

Ann Crook; for Intemperence and Misbehaviour towards her Husband

Eliz. King; Cabo Just, for loose disorderly Behaviour

Eliz. Hill; Ditto.

Mary Simpson; drinking & irregular Behaviour

Sept. 3[d] 1741.

A general Church-Meeting

present Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Savill Woodward, Stockdale, Frosloue, Rush, Tilly, Croker, Sen[r], Croker junr. palmer, Whiteman, Mackenofs, Bygrave, Nogusson[r], Huckle, Nogus, Nottingham, N. Simpson, S. Larkins, Willshor,

John Fannoh; dismist from ye church at Southill, was at this Time received into this church as a Stated Member after his Dismission was read.

Br Rich[d] Russel; Br. Woodward & Br. Frosloue to inquire into his present Behaviour

Mary Arms — to let her alone.

Ann Crook — Br Bygrave & Br. S. prior to inquire into her Conduct.

Eliz. King — Br Stockdale & Br palmer are appointed to inquire into her Conduct.

Eliz. Hill — Br. Savill & Br Croker are appointed to inquire into hers

Mary Simpson — Br. Willsher & Br. S. prior, D. Nogus — to inquire into her Conduct.

Sep. 30. Church Meeting

present Br. Sanderson, Woodward, Tilly, Savill, Crocker, Frosloue, Willshor, palmer, Rush; Crocker junr,

Br Woodward & Br Frosloue declared Br Russel was [illegible] & at the Br Woodward & Frosloue again deputed to go to Rich Russel & admonish him once more & require him to come & answer for himself next church Meeting.

Mary Arms dies since last church Meeting.

Eliz King was talked with by Br S Stockdale & Br palmer: Br palmer declared she behaved well & seemed penitent, & satisfied of her Guilt but her Way of Life gives offence Still & ye same Br. deputed to tell her yt ye Church is dissatisfied with her Way of going on, &c & require her to come & answer for her Self next Church Meeting

Br Savill & Crocker declared that Eliz Hill behaved (when they talked with her) extremely well: they were deputed to go to her again & admonish her but in Sound Thoughts she was restored.

Nothing done about Ann Crook Br Bygrave & Br prior being absent

Mary Simpson was restored (Br. Willsher having given a satisfactory Account of her) & she publickly owning & bewailing her Miscarriage.

Francis Greathead of Bideonham was propounded for Communion.

Nov[r] 5. Church Meeting

present Br Chandler, Sanderson Savill Stockdale, Croker Sen[r]. Fannoh, Bygrave, Br. S. Prior, Mackenofs, N. Thompson, Willshor, Rush, Tilly, Jos. Willshor, Frosloue,

Francis Greathead was received into Communion —

Br. Bygrave & Br prior deputed to talk wit Sister Crook & admonish her

Br Woodward & Br Frosloue — with Br Russel

Br Stockdale & Br palmer — with Sister Kin

Decembr. 3? 1741 Church-Meeting.

prosent Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilly, J. prior, Frostlove, Bygrave, Rush, Croker, T. Negus, palmer,

Br. Woodward & Br. Frostlove to acquaint Br Rapsol that ye church expects him to come before ye next Meeting

Sister King being present was admonished & threatned with Excommunicat not reformd: & Brother Savill & Br. Frostlove are appointed to talk with her further; & oppose her, yt ye Church absolutly expects amendment speedily, as to what is imputed to her; or must proceed against her.

Br. Bygrave & Br. J. prior who had been appointed to talk with Sister Ann Crook having declared yt she was willing to state her Case in Writing, they were desired to acquaint her, yt ye Church was willing she should; but required her to come to ye next Church Meeting, yt they might have an Opportunity of talking with her.

Eliz. Chapman was proposed for Communion.

No Church-Meeting in January. 1741/42

Feb. 4. Church-Meeting.

present Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Tilley, Stockdale, Woodward, Frostlove, Rush, Willshor,

Eliz: Chapman was admitted a Member.

Ann Crook came & delivered a paper containing an Account of her Repentance; wch was read: but Br Bygrave & Br. prior not being present, she was desired to wait a little longer.

Br. Rapsol was present, & after admonition was threatned with Excommunication in case he repents his sin — the church agreed to wait a little longer.

William Cox & Widow Hockett were proposed for Communion. ———

March 4. Church-Meeting.

present Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Tilley, Rush, Croker, Croker Junr, Bygrave, palmer, Willshor, J. Larkins,

William Cox & Widow Hockett were admitted Members.

Sister King was present, & was admonished; & threatned again with Excommunication in Case she reforms not. ———

April 1st Church-Meeting. 1742

present Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Tilley, Croker, Stockdale, Frostlove, Bygrave, J. prior, Larkins, Nottingham, Willshor, Rush,

Widow Mathews was proposed for Communion ——

Br J. prior was appointed to talk further with Sister Crook & beat her yt ye Church expects her to come & repent, & to come to ye Church-Meeting before she is restored.

As to Sister King, ye church resolvd to wait a little longer.

Resolved ye same as to Br. Rapsol.

Church-Meeting.

April 29.

present Br. Sanderson, Savill. J. Willshor Croker, Rush, Stockdale, Tilley, Frostlove, Willshor, palmer, Woodward, Larkins. ———

Mrs Mathews was admitted a Member.

Francis Jennings was proposed for Communion.

The Case of those yt have walk'd disorderly was deferrd ——

June 3d. Church-Meeting.

present Br. Chandler, Sanderson, Tilley, Stockdale, Rush, Woodward, Croker, Palmer, Bygrave, Frostlove, Croker Junr, Willshor,

Francis Jennings was admitted a Member.

Sarah Barnes, & Eliz. Waggstaff were propounded for Communion.

Sister Crook was present, & tho' she gave much more Satisfaction than before, yet Br. prior not being there her Restoration was deferrd one Month longer. ———

Mrs Maynard's Recommendation (for Occasional Communion with this Church) from Mr Webb, of Hitchin, was read, & approved of.

Church-Meeting.

July 1st Chandler

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Jennings, Willshor, palmer, Croker,

Sarah Barnes & Eliz. Waggstaff were received into Communion.

Willm Block was proposed for Communion

Sister Crook was restored ———

Church Meeting July 29

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Croker, Thor Negus, Rush, Jennings, Willshor, palmer, Frostlove,

Willm Block was admitted a Member.

Mr Maynards Recommendation (for Occasional Communion with this church) from Mr Needham of Hitchin being read, was approved of.

Sept 2d Church Meeting:
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Willshor, Rush, Croker, Nottingham Jennings, Tilley, Whiteman, ——

General Church-Meeting.
October 1st Chandler present, Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Tilley, Routon, J. Larkins, Jennings, Rush, D. Negus, Fannch, Odell, Croker, J. Negus, Willshor, Smith,

Sister Field, now Dove, was reproved before ye church, for her Marrying, & suspended from Communion.

Br Savil & Br Willshor were appointed to speak to Br Russel, & desire him to come before ye church, next Ch. Meeting.

Sister King was admonished; & it was resolved (on her promising to alter her Conduct) to wait a little longer.

Br Woodward was appointed to speak to Mary West, to know how it is with her, & whether she thinks of ever coming amongst us again. ——

As to ye state of ye church; it appeard that (Thro' the good Hand of our God upon us) our Number was increased by three; three having died seven ye last Year, and been added ten: Viz five M. & five Women.

And whereas there were six the last general Church-Meeting, who were under Dealings, it appeard by ye Book, yt three of em had been restored; one died ——

As to peace, we had Cause to bless God, for his great Goodness to us, yt we were so united in Love; & yt there was neither Adversary nor evil occurrent; except what was above mentioned concerning our Sister Field, alias Dove ——

Church-Meeting.
October 27.
Br Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Huckle, Tilley, Croker, Block, Croker Junr, D. Willshor, W. Willshor, Rush, J. Negus, Jennings,

Mary West who for several Years had absented her Self from ye Meeting, as well ye Communion of this church, was declared rent off from us.

Nov. 24. Church-Meeting.
Br Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Woodward Tilley, Croker, Willshor, ~~Willshor~~, Whiteman, Bygrave, Jennings, Fannch, Palmer, Rush,

Br Russel came before ye Church; & tho' he declard yt he had been kept from Intemperance about a Year & half: yet as he did not seem to be much attected, either with his not being suffered so long to come to ye Lords-Supper, or with his sinful Conduct in Time past, for wch he had been suspended, he was told yt ye church could not restore him, till he discovered a better Frame, & was strictly admonished, warnd & threatned ——

Church-Meeting.
December 25th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Jennings, Tilley, Mr Thompson, Stockdale, Freelove, Mackenss, Bygrave, Willshor, Odell, J. Larkins, J Larkins, Cox, Smith, J. Negus. D. Negus, Block, Fannch, palmer, Croker, Jun. Whiteman,

Mary Sudbury was proposed for Communion ——. ——

1742
3

Church-Meeting.
Feb 2d.
Br Sanderson, Tilley, Stockdale, Croker, jun. Nottingham, Willsher, Croker, Savill, Freelove, Woodward, Rush, Jennings, J. Larkins,

Mary Sudbury was ~~proposed~~ admitted a Member. ——

Br Savill & Br Bygrave were appointed to speak to Br Russel (who has relapsed into Intemperance) & to order him to come (once more) before the church, ye next Ch-Meeting —— Br Savill died since the last Church-Meeting.

Church-Meeting
March 2d.
Br Chandler, Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Rush, Jennings, Freelove, Palmer, Croker, Willshor, J. Larkins, Odell, ——

March 30th Church-Meeting
Br Chandler, Sanderson, Tilley, Woodward, Savill, Stockdale, Croker, Freelove, Block, Rush Willshor,
Martha Cowdale & Ann Barker were proposed for Communion ——

April 28th Church-Meeting 1743
present Br Chandler, Sanderson, Woodward, Stockdale, Tilley, Croker, Jennings, Larkins, Palmer, Rush, Willsher ——

Martha Cowdale & Ann Barker were admitted Members.

Church-Meeting.
June 2d.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Tilley, Freelove, Croker, Jennings, Willsher, Rush, Palmer,

Mary Stoakes & Mary Greene were proposed for Communion ——

June 30th Church-Meeting.
Br Chandler, Sanderson, Tilley, Stockdale, Woodward, Savill, Jennings, Croker junr, Croker, Palmer, Rush, Bygrave, Willsher, J. Negus, D. Negus, Odell, ——

Mary Greene, & Mary Stoakes were admitted Members.

Sept 1. Church-Meeting.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Croker, Tilley, Willsher, Whiteman, Macknefs, Jennings, Rush, Bygrave, ——

Sept. 28. A General-Church-Meeting.
Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Woodward, Block, Fanch, Freelove, Rush, Bygrave, N. Thompson, Macknefs, Croker junr, Croker, Willsher, D. Negus, Jennings, ——

Jonathan Negus was proposed for Communion.
Br Stockdale, Freelove, & Rush were appointed to talk with Sister King, & to let her know yt the church would wait no longer; that if there was not a speedy Reformation, they would immediatly proceed to cut her off.
Br Savill & Woodward were appointed to talk with our young Br Nottingham about his absenting himself on ye Lords-Day, & constantly going after Mr Rogers.
Br Freelove & Palmer were appointed to talk with Sister Dove who has ben about a Year ben suspended for her marrying so unscriptably ——

It appeared, at this general-church Meeting, that (since ye last) 5 had ben added to us; 6 had died; that thro' the Favour of God to us, we had continued in Peace; that ye Members in general had walked well; but that ye Work of God was much at a stand among us; & that there was not yt Zeal for ye Glory of God, ye Interest of Christ & ye Welfare of the rising Generation as might be wished & fervent prayer was made that ye Lord would revive us &c ——

Church-Meeting.
Nov. 17th
Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Tilley, Woodward, R. Huckle, Savill, Jennings, Willsher, Block, Croker, Freelove, Croker junr, Whiteman, Rush, J. Larkins, Larkins, D. Negus, J. Negus, Palmer, Macknefs, Nath. Thompson,

Jonathan Negus was taken into Communion.

Br Stockd. Freelo. & Rush reported yt Sister King did not seem any Sensible of ye Crime she had ben charged with; but had (as she said) in part ~~refused~~ reckified what had ben amiss; & hoped that shortly she should quite have done with that Way of Life — agreed that ye same Brethren should again admonish her, & order her to come before the Church, ye next Meeting.

Br Savill & Woodw? declared yt our Brother Nottingham seemed very obliging & resolved to persist in his absenting himself from us, & going after Mr Rogers — agreed to wait a little longer, & in ye Mean while to pray for him ——

Br Freelove & Palmer not having had an opportunity of talking with Sister Dove, they are to do it against next Ch. Meeting

[147]

Henry Slack of Elstow was propounded for Communion.

Church-Meeting.

Decemb. 15th 1743

Br. Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Bygrave, Stockdale, Croker, Tilley, Jnnings, J. Croker Willsher, R. Huckle, J. Larkins, Jo. Negus, Rush,

Henry Slack was admitted a Member.

Sister King upon being thretned with Excommunication, solomnly promised to leave off entirely that Business she had followed, by wch she had given so much offence to the Church

Church-Meeting.

Jan. 12. 1743/4

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Jennings, Rush, Freelove, Bygrave, Croker, J. Larkins, Willsher,

Church-Meeting.

March 1-

present. Br. Sanderson, Tilley, Savill, Croker, Stockdale, Block, Whiteman, Jennings, Rush, Jo. Negus, Willsher, Slack, T. Negus,

Church-Meeting.

March 29. 1744

present, Br. Sanderson, Savill, Tilley, Rush, J. Larkins, J Larkins, Slack, Bygrave, Jo. Negus, Freelove, palmer, Jennings, Croker, J. Croker, Willsher, Cox, Whiteman

Br. Freelove having had some Conversation with Sister Dove, declared that tho' she did not condemn ye Church in what they had done with Respect to her, yet she did not seem to be sensible that she had done amiss, or at least very little; but expressed a Desire to be restored; & hoped she was not altogether without ye Presence of God. — Resolved to wait awhile longer. before she be restored.

Church-Meeting.

May 2d. present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Tilley, Stockdale, Croker, Jona. Negus, Willsher, J. Larkins, T. Negus, Jnnings,

Rachel Woodward was proposed for Communion.

Church-Meeting

May 31. present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Tilley, Woodward, Slack, Rush, Croker, Jnnings, D. Negus, Jon. Negus, Bygrave, J. Larkins, Willsher,

Rachel Woodward was admitted a Member.

Church-Meeting.

June 28.

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Stockdale, T. Negus Jona. Negus, Odell, D. Negus, Tilley, palmer, Croker, Croker, jun Bygrave, Willsher, Block,

Dorcas Broughton was proposed for Communion.

Church-Meeting.

Aug 30.

present Br Sanderson, Tilley, Stockdale, Bygrave, Woodward, Croker, Freelove, Willsher, Jon. Negus, Jennings, Rush, Savill, Slack, J. Larkins,

Dorcas Broughton was admitted a Member.

October 9th

when ye Lords Supper was administred Eliz. Fannch of Kempstone was proposed for Communion.

Nov. 1. Church-Meeting.

present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Tilley, Bigrave, J Larkins, White Man, Woodward Savill, Slack, Willsher, Freelove, Fannch, Rush, Jennings, T Negus,

Eliz Fannch was admitted a Member.

Mary Crook was proposed for Communio.

Brother Savill & Br Woodward were desired to talk with our Br Nottingham, & to let him know that if he don't come before ye church the next Meeting, he will then be declard rent off from us —

Brother Stockdale & Br Freelove were appointed to speak to Br Greathead, to admonish him about his separating himself from ye Communion of this Church, and to learn what he intends to do ———

Church Meeting.

Nov 29th 1744

present Br. Sanderson, Tilley, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, S. Larkins, Rush, Jennings, Palmer, Freelove, Croker, Bygrave, Jon. Negus, Slack, N. Thompson,

Mary Crook was received into Communion. Also

Widow Woodward of Goldington who having been a Member of Mr Ros. Skinners Church (which has been dispersed for some Years) had had Occasional Communion with us, was declard a Member of the Church.

Our Br Wm Nottingham being present, & denying yt this was a Church of X, besides declaring his Resolution to come no more amongst us, was declard rent off from it.

Brother Stockdale, & Br Freelove, who made a Report of ye Conversation they had with our Br Francis Greathead, were appointed to speak to him once more, & to assure him, yt if he persists in his Resolution to keep from us, he will be declard rent off ye next Church-Meeting. ———

Church-Meeting

Jan. 3d. 1744/5

Br: Sanderson, Stockdale, Woodward, Slack, Tilley, Freelove, Bygrave, Whiteman, Jona. Negus, Jennings, Croker, S. Larkin,

Francis Greathead persisting (according to ye Report made by our two Brethren who were appointed to talk to him) in his Resolution to come no more among us, declaring, at the same Time, yt he did not look upon us a Church, was declard rent off from us.

A Letter from ye church at Hitchin under ye care of ye Revd Mr James, in which they desire our Advice how they should act towards two of their Members who are thought by some of us, to have been guilty of Incest in marrying ye Woman living Sister to ye Mans former Wife) was read to ye Church — but as the thing appeared to be attended with Difficulty it was resolved to defer it till ye next Church Meeting. ———

Church Meeting.

Jan 31.

Br. Sanderson, Bygrave, Stockdale, Savill, Tilley, Woodward, Freelove, Rush, Palmer, S. Croker, Willshor, Roughton, Mackeness, T. Negus, J. Negus, S. Larkins, ———

The Letter from the church at Hitchin, mentioned the last Church Meeting, was read; of wch this yt follows is a Copy:

The Church of X at Hitchin, under the Care of Mr James, to the Church of Christ at Bedford, under the Charge of ye Revd Mr Chandler, & Sanderson, Health Christian Salutation.

Beloved in our Lord.

'Tis with no small Grief we acquaint you, yt for some Time past the Lord has been pleased to lay heavy Afflictions upon us; & to exercise us with very sore Trials.

particularly, there are two Members of our Community who have given us great Uneasiness by in the uncommon Step wch they have taken

The Case in short is this: the Wife of one of our Brethren dying without Issue, he has since thought proper to marry her Sister; who is likewise a Member with us. There was not a little Care taken to prevent it (especially by One of our Deacons) but all in vain. They have too been conversed with since, but can by no Means be brought to look upon this Action as criminal.

After earnest, & repeated Supplications therefore to the Lord for Direction; attended with Consultations among our Selves (still apprehending it a difficult Case) we judged it expedient, by Virtue of our Communion with Sister Churches, to send Letters of Advice; that we may be the better instructed in ye Knowledge of our Duty; and act in this affair, for the Glory of a Redeemer, and ye Honour of his Church.

We are the rather inclined to pursue this Method, as there are different Sentiments among our Selves; some looking on the Marriage as incestuous; others viewing it in a more favourable Light: Tho' blessed be ye Lord Brotherly Love still continues; and we are unanimous as to calling in ye best Advice upon this Head.

Dear Brethren, we heartily wish you much of the Presence of X in ye Ordinances of his House; and in Fellowship One with another: and beg that Affairs of this Nature

may (thro' grace and treaty you) may your Pastors be continued long, as burning & shining Lights among you; your Love to & Redeemer, to you & one another abound still more & more; and may you have a Spirit of Wisdom & Understanding to advise in this & every other affair, wch may be laid before you.

Brethren. pray for us, yt we may have all ye Presence, & Faithfulness, & Zeal, & Love, and Fervency, becoming a Church of X, in ye conscientious Discharge of every Duty, unto ye End.

We remain Yours in ye best Bonds

Signed at our Church-Meeting in Behalf of ye whole

Samll. James pastor
Nich. King
Jno Foster
Jno Lawrence
Wm. Thomas Deacons
Tho. Ashwood
Jno Godfrey
Brethren

December 6. 1744.

PS. a speedy Answer is wished for, because ye Decision of this Case is desired.

This Letter being read; ye Church after having deliberated upon it, agreed upon an Answer to it; the Substance of wch is contained in ye following Letter, signed by ye undermentioned, in ye Name of ye Church; and wch was sent to ye aforesaid Church at Hitchin.

The Church of X at Bedford, under the Care of the Revd Mr Chandler, & Sanderson, to the Church of X at Hitchin, under ye Care of the Revd Mr James, send the xian Salutation.

Beloved in our Lord.

It is with no small Concern, we have heard of the Affliction you are under, occasioned by ye uncommon Step with two of your Members have taken.

As we agree with you, it is a difficult Case, we approve of your Conduct, hitherto, in it: particularly in ye speedily applying to ye Throne of divine Grace, for Direction how to act towards those who have caused this Grief; and also in sending Letters of Advice to Sister-Churches.

And since, regarding us as One of those, you have desired our Sentiments on this intricate affair, we, out of our xian Love to you, & Concern for your Welfare, after having asked Counsel of God, have taken ye same into Consideration; and do herewith send you the Result of our Deliberations, & Consultations about it.

We were pretty unanimous in thinking, "yt the Law of God is not clear concerning the Lawfulness, or Unlawfulness of such a Marriage; & that therefore it were much to be wished, they who have ventured upon it, had not done it: especially considering yt so many Wise, & good Men esteem it sinful; & yt it has occasioned much Offence, & Trouble to some serious Christians: but since they themselves see no Iniquity in it, and it cannot be certainly proved there is any, whatever Reason there may be to fear it, we were of Opinion, that they should not be excommunicated for what they have done; if they humble themselves before ye Church, and express an hearty Concern at having caused Offence, & Grief to it.

However when we came to consider, whether these Terms should be so absolutely insisted on, as yt without complying with them, they should never be restored, but on ye contrary, cut off; we were divided: about one half of ye Brethren judging it reasonable to require those Conditions; the Rest not.

Thus, dear Brethren, & xian Friends, we have according to your Request, given you our Sense of this difficult Case: and it is our Heart's Desire & Prayer to God for you, yt you may be directed to act in it, agreeable to his Mind & Will: that ye Issue thereof may be his Glory, ye Honour of X, ye great Head of ye Church; & your own Reputation, & Peace as a xian Society.

You have also our unfeigned Wishes, "yt your worthy Pastor may be continued for many Years a Burning, & shining Light in ye midst of you; yt he, & you, may have much of ye Presence of X in ye Administration, & participation of ye Word, & Ordinances; " yt your Love to ye dear Saviour, & to One another, may abound more, & more, in all Knowledge, and Judgment; " yt ye Interest of our common Lord may greatly prosper amongst you, ye Lord adding unto you daily such as shall be saved.

We conclude with earnestly requesting your xian Remembrance of us before ye Throne of Grace; yt we may be built up on our most holy Faith; & may be multiplied, as well as edified. We remain,

Beloved in X,

Yours in ye Bonds of ye Gospel.

Signed in the Name of the Church

Feb. 10. 1744

5

Samuel Sanderson
John Savill
Tho. Woodward
John Stockdale
Tho. Negus
Tho. Bygrave
Tho. Rush
Wm Willsher
Jos. Freelove

Church-Meeting.

Feb. 20.

present Br Sanderson, Tilley, Stockdale, Woodward, Rush, Freelove, Jennings, Croker, Tho. Negus

Mary Salisbury was proposed for Communion.

Church-Meeting

April 4th.

present Br Sanderson, N. Thompson, Block, Freelove, Rush, Oddie, Jennings, D. Negus, Croker, Whitbourn, Bygrave, Mackneff, T. Negus, Palmer, Willsher,

Mary Salisbury was admitted a Member.

(150) Church-Meeting.

May 2d 1745
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Larkin, Woodward, Jennings, Croker, Willsher, Rush, Savill, Jon. Negus,

General-Church Meeting

May 30th
present Br Sanderson, N. Thompson, G. Thompson, Slack, Bygrave, Stockdale, Block, Woodward, Rush, Croker, Savill, Fawnch, Jennings, D. Negus, Croker jun, Odell, Willsher, J Negus,

It appeard at this General-Ch. Meeting that since ye last, eight had been added to us; & yt we had lost six: four having died, & two rent themselves off from us: that thro' ye Goodness of God to us, we had continued in peace: yt no Complaints had been made of ye Members walking disorderly: yt ye Good Work of God among us hath not was tho' not absolutly, yet comparitively dead; there being but few awakened: & there being a great Want of Zeal in Brn; & too much of formality & Deadness — and fervent prayer was made for a Revival —

It was agreed at this Meeting to make Choice of two new Deacons —

also a [illegible] Letter was read; and an answer to it; wch it was unanimously resolved to send; the Copies of wch are here subjoind:

The Church of Christ meeting at Blunham
to the Church of X meeting at Bedford
sendeth greeting
Brethren in ye Lord.

Whereas Differences between you & us, for Reasons best known to your selves, have subsisted for some Time; contrary to ye Amity & Friendship that formerly took place: we are so far from stubbornly continuing of one standing out, or walking after our own Wills, notwithstanding all yt has taken place, yt we take this Opportunity to acquaint you, yt we are willing to walk Neighbourly with you, as a part of ye same Body of wch our dear Lord X is ye Head; so far as we can in a Consistency with Truth and faithfulness; acknowledging every good Thing in every One to ye Glory of God by Jesus Christ.

And in as much as One of our Members who lives near to you, has signified their Desire to us of taking a place with you at ye Lords-Table occasionally we were willing to embrace this Opportunity to enquire whether you acknowledged Communion with us; & were willing to lay aside all those Animosities, Differences and Distances, wch have of late been fomented, and continued; & doubtless been ye Occasion of Heartrisings on both sides, wch we by this do assure you yt we are willing to. Thus Brethren, we commend you to God, who is a God of peace, & Order, as in all ye Churches of ye Saints: and remain Your Bro Brethren
in ye Kingdom & patience of Jesus Christ
Thos Cranfield pastor
Joseph Farr
Thos Spring
Mo Hubbard
Richd Emmery
Palladay Woodward
John Grant.
Thos Woodham
George Medbury
Fran. Atwood
Dan Lincoln
Will Dix.

Voted at our Church-Meeting May 10. 1745
Signed by us before the church in ye Name of the Rest.

Please to lay this before the Church, & give us an answer the first Opportunity.

The Answer.

The church of X at Bedford
to the church of X at Blunham
sendeth Greeting.
Brethren in the Lord.

Your Letter to us dated the 10th of this Instant has not a little surprized us: since we are not sensible we have ever done any thing to create, much less to foment Differences between us & you, as you seem to insinuate. If there were any have arisen, or do subsist, you your selves might be best acquainted with ye Grounds of 'em; for we can solemnly appeal to ye Searcher of Hearts we have never borne any Ill will to you; nor designedly behaved towards you, so as to make you suspect that we have no Regard for you.

We are much astonished at your asking, whether we acknowledge Communion with you; pretending we have been so far from doing any thing to give you just Reason to call this in Question that we have given most evident Proof to ye contrary particularly in dismissing two, or three of our Members to you; and also in admitting to sit down with us One of yours; after having been credibly informed by some of your People, that she had walked well, never fallen under your Censure for any Misconduct.

And now ye have Occasion to speak on this Head we must take ye Liberty to observe, that we imagine we have had more Reason to question whether your Lord Communion with us; believing some of such as we believe must know the Truth, that some

y/st Part of Those we Dismist to you, if not all of us, gave in a fresh Experience before they were received by you, wch (if it was so) was not treating us as a Sister-Church; nor you as Brethren, who had belongd to us.

But what ever may have been done in Time past, as you by your Letter to us, appear now disposed to hold Communion with us: we, in answer to it, do hereby acquaint, & assure you, that we not only own you to be a church of Christ, but are very willing to behave towards you as such, upon all Occasions, & particularly, this wch now offers: being ready to admit to Followship with us such as you may think fit to recommend to our xtian Regard.

We conclude with our hearty Wishes & Prayer for you, "that building up your Selves on your most holy Faith", & praying in ye holy Ghost, you may keep your Selves in ye Love of God, looking for ye Mercy of our Lord Jesus x unto Eternal Life. We remain yours in the Bonds of the Gospel.

Signed in the Name of the Church

Agreed at our Church Meeting May 30. 1745

Samuel Sanderson
Tho' Woodward
Jno Savill
Jno Stockdale
Tho' Negus
Tho' Bygrave
Tho' Rush
Wm Willsher
Joseph Frosloe
Jno Jackson
Jno Fannoh
Sam. Larkins
Jonath Negus
Tho' Palmer
Samuel Prior

The Case of our Sister King, who has been long under Doubtings, was deferd because of ye Absence of some of our Brethren

Church-Meeting.

July 4th.

present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Croker, Savill, Bygrave, Frosloe, Thompson, Woodward, Palmer, Rush, Willsher, Odell,

after solemn, fervent prayer to God, Br Odell, & Br Bygrave were unanimously chosen Deacons; and they are to give their Answer to the Church's Call, the next Church-Meeting.

Church-Meeting.

Aug 1st.

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Bygrave, Stockdale, I. Larkins, Thompson, Woodward, I. Larkins, J. Negus, Whiteman, Frosloe, Rush, Jonath Negus, Jennings, Palmer, Willsher, Slack, T. Negus, Croker, Odell,

Br Odell & Br Bygrave declared their willingness to act as Deacons probationaly for some Time; and solemn prayer was made for you & also for Success to our Arms & Those of our Allies; things appearing to us but in a bad Situation — and also for a good Harvest-Season.

Nov 22 Co

There were between ye last Church Meeting Aug. 1. & yt in Nov 22 many Meetings of ye Church & Congregation for prayer on ye Account of our National Troubles; and several Days of Fasting, as well as prayer.

Church-Meeting

Nov 22

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Whiteman, Stockdale, Palmer, Jennings, Rush, Woodward, I. Larkins, Slack, Croker jun, Fannoh,

Church-Meeting

December 20th

present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Woodward, Stockdale, Frosloe, Willsher, Jon. Negus, Whiteman, Savill,

Church-Meeting.

Jan 23. 1745/6

present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Thompson Savill, Odell, Jon. Negus, Rush, Jennings Croker, I Larkins, T Negus,

Mary Wooton & Mercy Perrin were proposed for Communion at this Meeting, to wch ye Congregation was admitted, Solemn prayer was made for the Nation on the Account of the Rebels:

wch yet continues (tho' hoped to be not now so formidable as it was some Weeks past) and also on account of ye Distemper wch prevails among ye Cattell, wch is now come very near to us.

1745/6 Church-Meeting.

Feb. 26.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Freelove, Stockdale, Thompson, Odell, S. Larkins, T. Negus, D. Negus, Jo: Negus, Croker, Willsher, Rush,

Mary Wooton, & Mercy Perrin were received as Members ———

Church-Meeting.

April 4th 1746
present Br. Sanderson, Willsher, Croker, Stockdale, Jo. Negus, Palmer, Savill, Woodward, Rush, Jennings, Tho: Negus, Thompson,

Mary Baset of Milton was proposed for Communion ———

Church-Meeting.

April 30th
present Br. Sanderson, Willsher, Block, Croker, Thompson, Tanch, Woodward, Jennings, Freelove, Larkins, Stockdale, Rush, Odell,

Mary Baset was received into Communion ———

And besides the Supplications wch were now made on ye Account of our National Troubles, there were praises and Thanks giving offerd up for ye compleat Victory over ye Rebels in ye Battle of Culloden, near Inverness; under his Royal Highness ye Duke of Cumberland, the 16th of this Instant. and the Congregation joind with the church in the prayers of the Day.

Church-Meeting.

May 30.
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Woodward, Croker, Stockdale, Willsher, Rush, Larkins, Jo: Negus, Jo. Negus, Odell, ———

(152.)

Church-Meeting

July 2d
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Croker, Freelove, Willsher, Savill, Odell, Stockdale, Palmer, Jennings, Rush, T. Negus,

Church-Meeting.

Sept 5th
present Br Sanderson; Savill, Bygrave, Stockdale, Odell, Rush, Croker, Woodward, Tanch, T. Negus, J. Negus, Slack, Thompson, J. Thompson,

Church-Meeting

October 3d
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Odell, Freelove, Woodward, Whiteman, Croker, Slack, Jennings, Larkins, Cox, Rush,

Eliz. Pearse was proposed for Communion.

Church Meting

Nov. 13th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Stockdale, Woodward, Slack, Freelove, Willsher, Rush, Palmer, T. Negus, Jon: Negus, Jennings

Eliz Pearse was taken into Communion ———

Church-Meeting.

Dec. 11th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Croker, Stockdale, Jon: Negus, Bygrave, Woodward, Whiteman, Thompson, Croker jun: Willsher, Slack, Palmer, Tho: Negus, S. Larkins Jno. Larkins,

Mrs Susannah Clark's Recommendation from Mr Bradbury for Occasional Communion was read & approved of.

Jan. 1746

There was no Church Meeting in this Month.

3/ Feb 5th 1746/7 Church-Meeting.

present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Odell, Thompson, Savill, Woodward, Rush, Croker, J. Larkins Frostlove, Palmer Jennings, Mackenfs, Willsher, Tho Negus, Whiteman,

Church-Meeting.

March 5th

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Woodward, Odell, Croker, Slack, Jennings, Palmer Willsher, Stockdale,

Church-Meeting.

April 2d. 1747

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Bygrave, Thompson, Block, Croker, Whiteman, Odell, Willsher, Rush, Jam Larkins, Jno Larkin,

Church-Meeting.

April 30th

present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Croker, Savill, Bygrave, J. Larkins, Jno Larkins, Odell, Stockdale, Whiteman, Rush, Willsher, Tho Negus, Cox.

General-Church-Meeting.

June 4th

present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Bygrave, Savill, J. Larkins, Stockdale, Croker, Frostlove, Rush, Jno Larkins, Tanch, Jam. Croker, Jennings, Routon, Mackenfs, Block, Woodward,

At this general church Meeting, it appeared that we had, since ye last, lost eight of our Members by Death, and had only taken in four persons; yt as Conversion Work went on but slowly (a thing much to be lamented) so Gods own people seemed to be under Declensions: and particularly yt they seemed to want much of that Zeal and Fervency with the church had known in times past. Yet on ye other Hand, it appeared by comparing ye present State of ye Church with yt it was in about 6 years ago, when ye last List of its Members was made, that ye Number was exactly ye same as then; we having lost 27, & added just as many. We also saw Reason to bless God, yt our Peace continued; and yt ye Members had in general walked so well yt there had been no Complaints on that Account, since ye last general-Church-Meeting; and also yt there were some young persons, both Men & Women, under a Concern about their Souls.

Br Savill, Woodward, & Frostlove were appointed to go & talk with our Sister Stocker of this Town, who for some Time, has gone after ye Moravians; and to make a Report ye next church-Meeting.

Also Br Odell, Stockdale, & Rush were deputed to talk with our Sister Dove, about her present Disposition towards ye church, from ye Communion of which she has a good while been suspended, for her irregular, & disreputable Marriage.

The Case of our Sister King was put off: and ye affair relating to ye Deacons who have acted for some Time probationly, was also postponed, because Br Odell was not present, being gone a Journey.

Church-Meeting.

July 2d.

Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Jno Thompson, J. Larkins, J. Larkins, Thompson, Odell, Croker, Rush, Palmer, Whiteman, Huckle, Jon[a] Negus, Jennings, Jennings,

Church-Meeting.

Sept 3d.

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Palmer, Thompson, Croker, Slack, T. Negus, Whiteman, Huckle, J. Negus

Sept 29. Church-Meeting.

present Br Sanderson. Thompson, Odell, Croker, Rush, Woodward, Slack Frostlove, J. Negus, Savill, T. Negus,

Croker junr, Stockdale (154)

Israel Mitchel was proposd for Communion.

Brother Odell & Bro. Stockdale having reported ye Conversation they had with our Sister Dove, & Signified ye Satisfaction they had from it touching her free & her Concern for having done what had been a Grief & an Offence, It was unanimously agreed she should be restored; & ye aforesaid Brethren were desired to Acquaint her with it.

Our Three other Brethren Viz Woodward, Savill, & Froslove having likewise made known ye Discourse they had had with our Sister Stoker of this Town, and declard yt she reported a Willingness to come before the Church, our Brother Natha. Thompson was desired to acquaint her yt ye Church expects her to come ye next Meeting.

Church-Meeting.

Octobr 29. 1747

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Huckle, Thompson, Jon: Nogus, Block, Croker, Rush, I. Larkins, Jennings, Willshor, Croker junr. Stockdale, Tho Nogus,

Israel Mitchel was admitted to Communion.

A Letter was read from ye Church at South reccommending Goodman Mowbray Lill & his Wife to occasional Communion, & was approved of.

Sister Mary Stoker of this Town came before us, & declared her Resolution never to sit down with us any more, but was not declard quite off from us now, the church being willing to wait a little longer.

No church-Meeting at the Beginning of December; but a Meeting of the Congregation, at wch there was a Repetition & prayer

No church Meeting ye Beginning of January (1747-8) but a Sermon being New-Years-Day.

Church-Meeting.

Feb. 4th.

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Odell, Stockdale, Rush, Palmer, Froslove, Croker, Huckle, Jennings, Willshor, Cox,

Wm Malden was proposd for Communion.

Church-Meeting.

March 2.

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Odell, Rush, Willshor, Froslove, Croker, I. Nogus, Jennings, T. Nogus,

Wm Malden was received into Communion.

Church Meeting.

March 31. 1748

present Br. Sanderson, Odell, I. Larkin, Malden, Savill, Willshor, I. Negus, Jennings, Cox, Stockdale, Woodward, Tho. Nogus,

Ann Yarrow was proposd for Communion.

Church-Meeting.

April 28.

present Br Sanderson, Odell, I. Nogus, Malden, Froslove, Stockdale, Palmer, I. Larkins, Rush, Croker, I. Croker, Willshor, Savill, Jo. Larkins, Tho Nogus, Cox,

Ann Yarrow was taken into ye Church.

Charles Thompson was proposd for Communion

Church-Meeting.

June 2d.

present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Fanch, Stockdale, Croker, Willshor, Malden, I. Nogus, Palmer, D. Nogus, Mitchel, Rush, Jennings, Huckle, Odell,

Charles Thompson was admitted a Member.

Church-Meeting.

June 30. present Br Sanderson, Croker, Stockdale, I. Negus, Savill, Odell, Woodward, Fanch, Rush, Jennings, Willshor, Jo. Nogus

Ed. Simmons was proposd for Communion

55

Church-Meeting.

Aug 4th 1748
prosnt Br Sanderson, Thompson, Willsher, Savill, Stockdale, palmer, Odell, J Negus, Rush, Smith, Fauch, T. Negus, Jennings,

Elizabeth Sympson was taken into the Church.

(Church-Meeting)

Sept. 1st
prosnt Br Sanderson, Woodward, Savill, Jno Thompson, Croker, Willsher, Freelove, J Negus, Thompson, Malden, Odell, Rush, Jennings, T. Negus, ———

Church-Meeting.

Sept 29th
prosnt Br Sanderson, Rush, J. Negus, Larkin, Malden, Thompson, Savill, Stockdale, J. Thompson, Croker, Freelove, Willsher, palmer,

Elizabeth Rafthead was proposed for Communion—

Nov: 17th Church-Meeting.

prosnt Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Malden, Freelove, Willsher Croker, Sam Larkins, Jennings, Thompson Rush, T. Negus,

Church-Meeting

December 15.
prosnt Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Freelove, Willsher, palmer, Malden, Croker, Jennings, Jo: Negus, Tho Negus, Thompson, Jno Thompson, Huckle, Cox,

Elizabeth Rafthead was admitted to Communion—

Jan 19th 1748-9.
prosnt Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Croker, Malden, Freelove, Thompson, Rush, J. Negus, Willsher, Huckle, S. Larkins, Cox, T. Negus, Jennings, S. Croker,

Hannah Barker was proposed for Communion———

Church Meeting.

March 2d.
prosnt Br Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Thompson, Jno Thompson, Stockdale, Malden, Jo: Negus, Freelove, Odell, palmer, Jennings, Tho Negus Dan. Negus.

Hannah Barker was received into Communion.

Church-Meeting.

March 30. 1749
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Willsher, Stockdale, Jno Thompson, Jon. Negus, Savill, Odell, Freelove, palmer, Rush, Jennings, Malden, Woodward,

Mary King was proposed for Communion———

May 5th Church meeting.
present Br Sanderson, Rush, Block, Croker, Thompson. Jno Thompson, Freelove, Savill, Odell, Fauch, Woodward, Jennings, Stockdale, Jo. Negus,

Mary King was admitted a Member.

(General Church-Meeting)

June 1st
prosnt Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, D. Negus, J. Negus, Malden, Thompson, Croker, Woodward, Odell, palmer, Rush, Freelove, Jennings, S. Larkins, Mitchel, Huckle, Willsher,

at this general Church Meeting, it appeared that since the last, 8 of our Members died, and that as many had been added to us: that the church never enjoyd more peace nor any Complaints brought before ye Church of any disorderly Walkers — Br. Abraham Bingoe (Brother Odell declining, in ye Account of ill Health, and some other Discouragements to act as Deacon, it was agreed after some friendly Debate upon it, to chuse two other Deacons; & solemn prayer was made to God to direct in this important affair wch is to be determined by

next church-Meeting.
Our Late Sister Mary Stocker of this Town who is gone among ye Mergarians and has joind her Self to ym, was declared rent off from us.

Church-Meeting.

June 29. 1749
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Woodward, Willsher, Fanch, I. Larkins, Croker, Freelove, Stockdale, Odell, Palmer, Malden, D. Negus, I. Negus, Jenning,

According to the Resolution of ye Church to chuse two new Deacons — Br Daniel Negus and Br Wm Willsher were nominated as those that were judgd fit and proper to be in yt Office.
Our Br Is. Mitchel who has fallen into ye Sin of Uncleanness, came before us: when after he had confessd ye Crime, wch appeared to have been attended with great Aggravations, the Pastor endeavourd to lay before him the Aggravations of his Sin; and to direct him to what is his present Duty.
After he was withdrawn, ye Church talkd over ye Affair, but as it appeard difficult, they came to no Resolution; except yt they were unanimous in setting him aside for ye present, and in resolving to Quit Set apart a Day shortly, for Fasting, Humiliation, and prayer, on the Account of this our unhappy Brother.

Extraordinary Church-Meeting

July 20
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Woodward Stockdale, Willsher, Thompson, Freelove, D. Negus, I. Negus, Croker, palmer, Slack, Jennings,

This was, in Consequence of ye Churches resolution, a Day of Fasting & prayer, on ye Account of ye unclean Behaviour of our Br Mitchel: who was present, and was reproved & admonished but as several Brethren whose Opinion and Concurrence were desird in ye Affair were absent, the Church came to no certain Resolution; only agreed to defer it till ye next Church-Meeting; wch because of ye Harvest, will not be till ye End of August.

Church Meeting.

Aug 31.
present Br. Sanderson, Croker, Fanch, Thompson, I. Thompson, Malden, Willsher, Freelove, Stockdale, Woodward.
D. Negus, Jn Negus, I. Larkins, Jn Larkins, T. Negus,

The Brethren nominated for Deacons Viz Br Daniel Negus & Br Willsher were desired to accept of ye Office, and declar'd their willingness to act probationaly —

It was unanimously agreed to cast out of the Church our unhappy Brother Israel Mitchel and the Thursday following was appointed to be the Day.

Isaac Fanch & Sarah his Wife were taken in, on the Reading of their Dismission from the Church at Haddenham signd by ye Pastor & Several of the Brethren.

Thomas Cooper was propounded for Communion
and old Wm West was admitted to Occasional Communion, he being a Member of the Church at Market Harborough Lately under the Care of Mr Joann ——
N. B He died before the next Church-Meeting.

Extraordinary Church-Meeting

Sept 7th
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Willsher, Stockdale, Freelove, palmer, I. Negus, Malden, Croker,

After Solemn prayer, a Discourse on Excommunication, with an Exhortation to our unhappy Brother Israel Mitchel, said Brother was cast out of the Church. N. B. He was excommunicated not merely for his Uncleanness but for his having been guilty of it at the very Time, he came into the Church, and so for his having abominably deceived us from the Beginning; & for his behaving so as on ye Whole, to destroy the Credit of his Profession, and the Credibility of his Sincerity, & Conversion.

Church Meeting.

Sept 29.
Br Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Cox, Rush, Jno Thompson, Freelove, Croker, I. Negus, I. Larkins, D. Negus, Odell, palmer, Stockdale, Th. Negus Rouston,
Thomas Cooper was admitted a Member.

Church-Meeting.

Nov. 9.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Freelove, Stockdale, Jno Thompson, Willsher, Rush, I. Negus, Jennings, I. Larkin, Tho Negus,

Brother Stockdale and Br Odell were Appointed to talk with our Sister Marks - Brother

17 Freelove Br John & Br Isaac Fanch with our Sister Cradock; Br Savill Br Stockdale and Br Willsher with our Sister Ann Crook, and Br Savill & Br Daniel Negus with our Sister Hill of Elstow, about their abstaining yet a time from ye Communion of this Church

Church-Meeting.

December 7th 1749
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Malden, Stockdale, Fanch, J. Negus, Croker, Thompson, D. Negus, Freelove, Rush, Odell, J. Negus, palmer, Willsher,

Br Odell & Br Stockdale having made their Report of ye Conversation they had with our Sister Marks, ye Church agreed to wait [illegible] till ye Spring to see if she will come when ye Days are long enough for her to go & come ye same Day.

Br Jno Fanch & Br Freelove having made their Report of what past betwixt you & our Sister Cradock, ye Church was dissatisfied with her [illegible] Reasons for absenting her self, but however determin'd to wait a month or two.

The Affair of our Sister Crook was put past, our Brethren who were deputed to talk with her, not having had an Opportunity of doing it.

As to our Sister Hill, ye Church was satisfied, from what her two Brethren declared concerning her, that her not coming among us, or but very seldom, was owing to ill Health, and not to want of Inclination or Will

And ye same was concluded concerning our Sister Willimot of Cople.

Church-Meeting.

Jan 4th
1749-50. present Br Sanderson, Thompson, J. Negus, Stocdale, D Negus, Rush, Willsher, Huckle, Woodward, Croker, Freelove, J. Negus, Savill, Jennings, J. Larkins, J. Thompson unanimously agreed to observe the Thursday following as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer on Account of Gods Hand on ye Land & in wch the Congregation might join.

Feb. 1. Church-Meeting.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Thompson, Rush, Malden, D. Negus, J Negus, Woodward, Rush, Willsher, T. Negus, J. Thompson, J Larkins, Cox, Croker, Fr. Curteroon

Church-Meeting

March 1st
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Thompson, Croker, Freelove, Rush, Odell, Willsher, Rowton, palmer, Malden, Cox, T. Negus,
Wm Grummet was proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting.

March 29. 1750
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Thompson, Jno Thompson, Jo: Negus, Dan. Negus, Freelove, Rush, Willsher, Odell, Malden, palmer, T. Negus, Croker,

The Affair of Brd Grummit was put past, a Difficulty being in ye Way

Jno Salisbury was proposed for Communion

Church Meeting

May 1st
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Fanch, Stockdale, Thompson, Woodward, Willsher, Malden, palmer, D. Negus, Odell, Slack, Rush, Jo. Negus, T. Negus, J. Larkins, Jennings, Croker,

John Salisbury was receivd into Communion

On ye Report of our Brethren who were deputed to talk with our Sister Crook, the Church was satisfied that she was willing to come amongst us as oft as she well could, and desired our Brother Willsher to write her Word of it, and to let her know yt there was no Objection to her taking her place at ye Lords Table ye next Lords day, as that we hoped to see her there

Church-Meeting.

May 31. 1750.
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Stockdale, Woodward, Jo. Negus, ~~Smith~~ Savill, Dan. Negus, palmer, Freelove, Willsher, Odell, Rush, Croker, T. Negus, I. Larkins,

Church-Meeting.

June 28.
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Stockdale, Woodward, I. Larkins, Croker, Rush, Willsher, Savill, Jo. Negus, Jennings, palmer, Odell,

Church-Meeting.

Aug 2d
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Stockdale, Freelove, Savill, D. Negus, Rush, Odell, palmer, D. Negus, Croker, Willsher,

Church-Meeting.

Aug 30.
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, D. Negus. I. Negus, Croker, Salisbury, palmer, Freelove, Odell, T Negus,

Church-Meeting.

October 5th
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Croker, Slack, Willsher, Rush, Stockdale, Block, T. Negus,

Joseph Rufthead and Wm Brown were propounded for Communion.

Church-Meeting.

Nov. 1. 1750.
present Br Sanderson, Woodward, Savill, Stockdale, Willsher, D. Negus, Jo. Negus, Thompson, Malden, Croker, Mackness, palmer, Freelove, Rush, Sam: Larkins, Jno Larkins, Huckle,

Joseph Rufthead & Wm Brown were taken into Communion —

Church-Meeting.

Nov 29. present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Rush, Willsher, Freelove, Croker, Isaa Fauch, Jennings, Cox, Rowton, palmer, Thompson, Jno Thompson, Woodward,

Mr Belsham was propounded for occasional Communion ——

Church Meeting

Dec: 27.
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Woodward, Croker, Fauch, Isa: Fauch, I. Larkins, Huckle, Rush, Malden, Freelove, T. Negus, D. Negus, Jo: Negus, I. Larkins Thompson, Fr. Cutrarson, Willsher,

Samuel Walton, Martha Woodward, and Eliz: Watson were proposed for Communion ——
and a Letter from ye Church of x at Bishopstortford recommending Mr Belsham to this church for occasional Communion was read and approved of.

Church-Meeting

Jan 24. 1750-51.
present Br. Sandrsn, Savill, Rush, Stockdale, Fauch, Jno. Thompson, Willsher, Is: Fauch, Huckle, palmer, Thompson, D. Negus T. Negus Jo: Negus, Odell, Jennings, I. Larkins, Brown, Malden, Croker,

Samuel Walton, Martha Woodward, and Eliz. Watson were received into Communion.

Feb 28. Church-Meeting.

present Br Sanderson, Savill, D. Negus Jo. Negus, Willsher, T. Negus, palmer, Rush, Croker, Jno Thompson, Brown, Walton, Odell, Woodward, Stockdale, Susan: Morrice & Kelly Tall were proposed for Communion.

59

Church-Meeting.

April. 4. 1757
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, J. Negus, Stockdale, Salisbury, Rush, Willsher, Croker, D. Negus, Odell, Brown, Malden,

Susan: Morrice & Christian Tall were admitted into ye Church.

Church-Meeting

May 2d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, J. Larkin Stockdale, J. Larkins, Palmer, Thompson, Willsher, T. Negus. D. Negus, J. Negus, Rush, J. Thompson,

Church-Meeting

May 30. present Br. Sanderson, Stockdale, J. Negus, Cox, Woodward, Willsher, Jo. Negus, palmer, Rush, Freelove, Odell, Malden, Jno Larkins, J. Larkins, Brown, Jennings, Th. Negus, Thompson,

ann Greene was proposd for Communion.

Church-Meeting

July 4. present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Woodward, J. Larkins Stockdale, palmer, Rush, Jon: Negus, Willsher, Croker, Brown,

ann Greene was admitted a Member.

Church-Meeting

Aug. 1st
present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Stockdale, Jo. Negus, D. Negus, palmer, Willsher, Woodward, ~~Palmer~~ Co. Croker, Malden, Rush, Odell, Thd. Custarson,

Church-Meeting

Aug. 29th
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, J. Larkins, Stockdale, Jon. Negus, D. Negus, Palmer, Rush, Odell, Willsher, T. Negus, Croker,

Church Meeting.

Octob 2d
present Br. Sanderson, Malden, Thompson, Jon: Negus, J. Larkins, Palmer, Willsher, Savill, Rush, Croker.

A Letter from the Revd Mr Hws of Colnbrook was read, in which Sarah Pearse of the Workhouse in this parish, ~~was~~ who is a member of the Church under his Care is recommended to us for Occational Communion.

Church Meeting

Nov. 13. present Br. Sanderson, Thompson, Willsher, Stockdale, D. Negus, Rush, Savill, palmer, Brown, Malden, Freelove

Br Freelove very solemnly declard, to the Church's Satisfaction, that the Reports which had been made to the Disadvantage of his character, in point of Purity, were intirely without Foundation.

Whereas our Br B. Greene has Lately failed in ye World, so as to become a Bankrupt: and has behavd so as to give Occasion to ye Enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, it was unanimously agreed that he should be suspended from the Communion of this Church till his affair can be more particularly enquird into: That a Letter, signd by the Pastor & several of ye Brethren in the Name of the Rest, be sent to him to acquaint him with it

Our Brother Greene did this.
The next Church-Meeting

160)

(Church-Meeting.)

Decembr. 12. 1751.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Jon: Negus, Jno Thompson, Rush, Willsher, Thompson, S. Belsham, Fr Custarson,

Church Meeting

Jan 16. 1752.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Croker, Rush, Stockdale, Cox, Willsher, J. Negus, Thompson, Belsham,

Church-Meeting

Feb. 27.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, D. Negus, Jo: Negus Thompson, Willsher, Larkins, Rush, Block, Croker, Malden, Palmer, Odell, Jennings,

Church-Meeting.

April 2d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Slack, Woodward, Jon. Negus, D. Negus, Odell, Willsher, Malden, Rush, Croker, palmer, Rush, J. Larkins, Belsham,

Sarah Hill was propounded for Communion ——

Church-Meeting.

April 30.
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Rush, J. Fanch, Willsher, D. Negus, J. Larkins, palmer, J. Negus, Jennings, Odell, S. Larkins, Belsham,

Sarah Hill was received into Communion ——

June 4.
Instead of a Church Meeting as was designd & expected till within two Hours of the Meeting we had a good Sermon, from Mr Saunders of Hertford who came very providentially without Seeing in the least expected: his Text was Luke VII. 42. 43.

(Church-Meeting)

July 2d
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Croker, J. Negus, Rush, Willsher,

(Church-Meeting)

July 30.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Woodward, Stockdale, D. Negus, Croker, Jennings, Block, J. Negus,

Church-Meeting

Sept 14. N. Slick took place this Day
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Savill, Stockdale, Jn Negus, Negus, Croker, Willsher, Odell, Malden, Js: Fanch, S. Custarson

Church-Meeting

October 19.
present Br Sanderson, Thompson, Stockdale, Rush, Willsher, Savill Larkins, Croker, Odell,

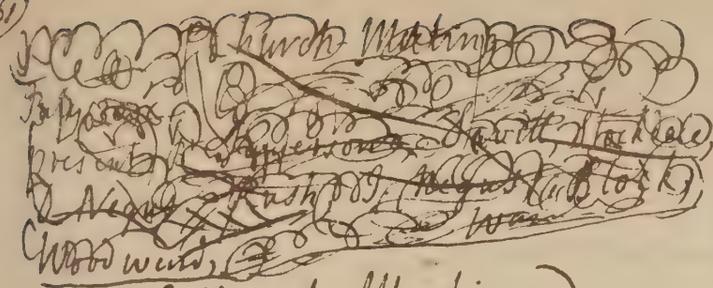
At this Church-Meeting our Sister Lydia Gale was absolutely suspended from all Communion & Fellowship with us, on the Account of her wicked scandalous Behaviour in setting Fire to her House wch was burnt down, & attempting to burn another for wch Facts She is now confind in the prison of the Bridge-House, not having in her Power, (owing as appears evidently since committing

Church-Meeting.

Nov 16.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Freelove, Stockdale, S. Larkins, Slack, J. Negus, Rush, Willsher, palmer, Brown, Malden, Walton, Belsham, J. Larkins, Croker,

Wm Shillington & Sarah Ives Cyp former a North Britton & ye other a Member of ye Church at Blunham were admitted to Occasional Communion after their Recommendations were read.

61



(Church-Meeting)

December 14, 1752
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Jno Larkins, Savill, Woodward, Willsher, Rush, Palmer, Cox, Negus, Jennings, Jon.n Negus, Belsham, Custarson, Odell, Walton,
Mary Camkin was propos'd for Communion—

Church-Meeting.

Jan 11. 1753.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Negus, Jn. Negus, Rush, Willsher, Jennings, Walton, Brown, Larkins,
Mary Camkin was admitted a Member.

Church-Meeting.

Feb. 15.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Rush, Willsher, palmer, Odell, Malden; Belsham, Custarson,
Ann Taylor, and Sarah Odell were propounded for Communion—.

Church-Meeting.

March 29.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Willsher, Malden, Negus, Jn. Negus, palmer, Odell, Block, Walton, Croker; Jennings
Ann Taylor & Sarah Odell were taken into the Church
And Martha Tanseley was propounded for Communion.

Church Meeting

May 3d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Jon: Negus, Stockdale, Palmer, Negus, Rush, S. Croker, Willsher, Malden, Odell, Walton, Belsham
Martha Tanseley was received into Communion—.

Church-Meeting

May 31.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Woodward, S. Larkins, Stockdale, Frelove, Jon. Negus, Negus, Palmer, Custarsm, F. Woodward, Brown, Odell, Belsham, Willsher,

Church-Meeting

June 29.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Willsher, Negus, S. Negus, Walton, Odell, Palmer, Malden,
Thomas Wainwright was proposed for Communion—

No church-Meeting in July

Church-Meeting

Aug 31.
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Willsher, Palmer, Rush, Ch. Thompson, S. Larkins,
Thomas Wainwright was taken into the church:
and Catherine Reynolds, Joseph Negus, and Wm Willes were proposed for Communion—.

Octob. 4th Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Jo. Negus Jn Larkins, Mocheness, Rush, Stockdale, Farch, Frelove, Negus, Willsher, S. Croker, Palmer, Js Farch Croker, Block, Cox, S. Larkins, Huckle, Walton, Brown, Savill.
Joseph Negus Wm Willes jun.— Catherine Reynolds were admitted Membe

162)

Church-Meeting
Nov. 1st 1753.
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Jon: Negus, Willsher, Jos. Negus, Rush, Larkins, Odell, Frd. Woodward,

Mary Smith, Ann Kilpin, & Mary Kilpin were propounded for Communion.

Church-Meeting.
Nov. 29.
present Br Sanderson, Mackness, Cox, Savill, Stockdale, Jon: Negus, Jos. Negus, Woodward, Freelove, Walton, Rush, Wiles, S. Croker, D. Negus, J. Fanch, Willsher, Huckle, Odell, Fran Custarson

Mary Smith, Ann Kilpin, & Mary Kilpin were taken into ye Church.

Church-Meeting
Jan 3d 1754:
present Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Jon: Negus Jos. Negus, Savill, Willsher, Thos. Custarson,

Church-Meeting
Jan 31.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Salisbury, Jon. Negus, Willsher, Freelove, S. Larkins, Malden, Huckle, Rush Odell, F. Custarson.

Church-Meeting
Feb 28.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Willsher, Rush, Palmer, Jona.n Negus, Josh Negus, Wm Wiles,

Church-Meeting.
Cyril 4th
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Rush, Joseph Negus, Willsher, Palmer, Odell,

Ann Fairchild, and Ann Groves were proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting
May 2d
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Freelove, Huckle, Jos. Negus, Willsher, Stockdale, Wiles, Palmer, Rush, Jon: Negus, Odell, S. Larkin, J. Larkin, D. Negus,

Ann Fairchild and Ann Groves were taken into the Church.

Church-Meeting
May 30th
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Freelove, Rush, Stockdale, Brown Larkins, Jos: Negus, Wiles, Negus, Malden, Jon Negus,

(Church-Meeting)
July 4th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Woodward, Stockdale, Rush, Fanch, Willsher, Odell, Malden, Freelove, Negus, Jos: Negus, Jon: Negus, Huckle = Mary Eagle was proposed for Communion. Our Young Brother Joseph Negus, who had preached several times without having been authorized & sent out, was given to understand that what he had done was irregular: and that ye Church expected he would forbear: unless he should be sent out: and that they would take knowledge of his Gifts, and in Order time to, desired he would attend as often as he could their Meetings for prayer: when in his Turn, he would be called on to pray and also that he would come amongst us & converse freely with his Brethren that they might be better able to form a Judgment of his Knowledge in ye Doctrines of the Gospel: and of his Capacity and ability to teach others ——— all which he seemd to approve of & acquiesce in.

Church-Meeting
Aug 1st
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Negus, Jon.n Negus, Slack, Stockdale, Friend Custarson, S. Larkins, Rush, Willsher,

Br Frelove, palmer, Jos: Negus,

Mary Eagle was admitted a Member ——

Church-Meeting

Octob 3d. 1754
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Frelove, Rush, Palmer, Joseph Negus, Jon: Negus, Malden, Coxe, D. Negus,

Eliz: Lyon was propounded for Communion ——

Church-Meeting

Octob 24th
Br Sanderson, Stockdale, Savill, Jon: Negus, Willsher, Fred Curtarson, Odell, Malden, Brown, Joseph Negus

Eliz. Lyon alias Smith was admitted a Member ——

Church-Meeting

Nov. 21.
present Br. Sanderson, Stockdale, Frelove, Willsher, Savill, Jon: Negus, Jos: Negus, Rush, J. Larkins, Odell, D. Negus,

Sarah Lyon was propounded for Communion ——

Church-Meeting

Dec. 26.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Jon: Negus, Crober, Jos. Negus, Rush, Willsher, J. Larkins,

Sarah Lyon alias Smith was taken into the Church ——

Church-Meeting

Jan. 23. 1755.
present. Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Jos: Negus, Jon: Negus, Frelove, Willsher, Rush, D. Negus, palmer,

Church-Meeting.

Feb 27th
present Br Sanderson, Savill Jon: Negus, D. Negus, palmer, Stockdale, Willsher, Larkins, Rush, Odell,

Church-Meeting

April 3d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Frelove, Stockdale, palmer, D. Negus, Jon: Negus, Odell, Rush, Routon.

Church-Meeting

May 1st
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Stockdale, Willsher Rush, palmer Odell,

Church-Meeting

May 29th
present Br Sanderson, Larkins Willsher, Frelove, Jon: Negus Rush, palmer, D. Negus, Stockdale Brown, ~~Willsher~~, Savill.

The Case of our Br Joseph Negus was taken into Consideration; and it was resolved that where as he has begun to preach again without being sent out, and contrary to what he knows to be ye Mind of ye Church & absented himself needlessly not only from ye Lords Supper, but also from on other Days one part of ye Day, & also wrote for a Dismission & it was resolved to depute & accordingly 3 of our Brethren viz Br Rush, Br Willsher & Br Frelove, were appointed to go to him & acquaint him that the Church highly disapproves of his Conduct, exports him to forbear preaching; & to attend more regularly on ye Means; & to observe more order for the future —

[illegible] Church-Meeting held [illegible]

July 3d 1732 Present Br Jameson, Savill, Freelove Willsher, Jon. Negus, John Larkins, Odell, D. Negus, Palmer, Malden, Fr. Woodward. — Our Brethren, who were appointed to talk with our Brother Joseph Negus, that he acknowledged his Irregularity in preaching without the Church's Approbation & Consent; that he was determined to give it over, because it was irregular; and that he designed to come amongst us more constantly than he had done, & to take his place —

Church-Meeting

July 31. Present Br Jameson, Savill, Woodward, Rush, Freelove, Odell, Jon. Negus, Ward.

Church-Meeting

October 2d Present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Cox, Stevens, Savill, Freelove, Croker, Rush, Palmer, D. Negus, Jon: Negus, Malden, Friend Ingrosand, Friend Hannigton.

The Church considering the Sin & Shame that we are in regard to [illegible] that we ought to be more & more concerned for the Advancement of the Interest; that each Brother be desired to give his Sentiments on this important Subject; that the next Church Meeting should be a general One; and that Every observed as a Day of Humiliation & Prayer. the Meeting to begin at a Quarter past 10 o'Clock —

A General Church-Meeting.

Nov. 13th Present Br Sanderson, Slack, S. Larkin, Savill, Willsher, Freelove, D. Negus, J. Fauch, Malden, Roulon, Huckle, Jon. Negus, Rush, Palmer, Cox, Brown, J. Larkins, Woodward, Croker. — In regard to the State of the Church, it appeared, at this Meeting, that it was decreased seven, since ye 1st of January 1754. when the last List of ye Members was taken; 13. having died, & but 5 added. That as to Walk & Behaviour there had been no remarkable Instances of Defection or scandalous Conduct — But that in point of Frame, Temper & Spirit there appeared to be much, too much, Lukewarmness Coldness & Indifferent Fervent Prayers were made for a Revival of Gods Work &c

And at ye same Time, Some Methods were mentioned, and approved of as proper to be taken, which might prove a Means in the Hand of the Spirit, to promote so desirable an End — such as follow Viz "that all ye Members should endeavour to know one another; & in Order to it, as many as could, should get & keep to them a List of ye Brethren and Sisters and make such Alterations in it from Time to Time, as should be necessary; according as any died, or any were added — "That they should converse more frequently, & freely together — "should more constantly attend Meetings for Prayer; and especialy the Church-Meetings; whether there is any other Meeting for Prayer or not — "should all particularly remember at ye Throne of Grace in their Families & Closets the Church & the Minister; to recommend both to the Grace of God: and to do this daily, continualy. "That proper Inquiries should be made after the Success of ye Word & Ordinances both in Regard to Sinners, & Saints: and after ye Walk, ye Temper & Conduct of the Members —

"That whereas ye Number of ye Members is considerably decreased, we should be much concerned That new Ones may be added: and That Inquiries should be made after those of the Congregation That may be most likely (in a Judgment of Charity) to come amongst us, and That such should be talked with; & quickened, and encouraged; as it appears there is Need of the One or the Other —

"and That for ye better Doing of this, some of the Brethren should be appointed who should make it their Business to enquire after such; and to talk with them &c

"and That Reports should be made from Time to Time, of the Success of such Enquiries; and particularly to the Minister; who should also take his part in this Work —

Accordingly the Church appointed ye Deacons to this important Service; and some Few other of the Brethren to be joined with them in ye better Discharges of this it, both in Town and Country: particularly Br. Rush, Br. Palmer, Br. Frealove, Br. Huckle, Br. Fanch and Br. Isaac his Son — as also Friend Curtarson was desired to assist in making such Inquiries

Br Savill & Br Palmer were appointed to talk to our Br Joseph Negus about his imprudent irregular Behaviour & Walk and to admonish & exhort him concerning it.

Also ye Case of our Sister Ann Groves was mentioned: who labours under a melancholy Disorder, & the power of Temptation: by Reason of which she absents her self from the Lords-Supper: it was agreed that she should be talked with; & particularly prayed for ——

Church-Meeting

Dec: 11th 1755
present Br Sanderson, Huckle, Willsher, Frealove, Malden, Odell, Rush, Croker, S. Larkins, Palmer, Jonth Negus & Curtarson,

John Rush was propounded for Communion.
Br. Joseph Negus was unanimously suspended from Communion on ye account of Notorious Irregularities; of which there was ye most convincing proof Br. Frealove & Palmer to acquaint him with it.

Church-Meeting

Jan 8th 1756:
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Jonth. Negus, Frealove, Isaac Fanch, Rush, Huckle, Savill, Palmer, Odell, Negus, Fr. Curtarson, Jno Larkins

John Rush was received into Communion ——

No Church-Meeting in February because of the Fast: but ye Lords Day following (which was ye Lords Supper Day) 2 persons viz Henry Cresby and Hannah Shepherd were proposed for Communion; after the Lords Supper was administred ——

Church-Meeting

March 4th
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, S. Negus, Frealove, Willsher, Palmer, Odell, Rush, Jon. Negus, Wiles,

Henry Cresby & Hannah Shepherd were admitted into ye Church ——
Sarah Stockdale was propounded for Communion ——

Church-Meeting

April 1st
present Br. Sanderson —, Rush, Croker, Willsher, Jonth Negus, Jno Rush, Negus, Palmer, Savill, Wiles, Odell, Malden, Fr Curtarson,

Sarah Stockdale was taken into the Church ——

Church-Meeting

April 29th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Frealove, S. Larkins, Cresby, Palmer, Odell, Wiles, Malden, Jon Negus, Jno Rush, Friend Wordwain, Willsher,

Church-Meeting

June 3d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Cresby, Friend Billington, Jonth Negus, Jno Rush, Willsher, Rush, Frealove, Fr Curtarson, S. Larkin, Palmer,

Thomas Pearson, and Richard Lyon or Smith were proposed for Communion ——

Br Savill & Br Willsher were appointed to talk to our young Brother Joseph Negus, & to enquire into his Temper Behaviour & Conduct, and to admonish him ——

Church-Meeting.

July 1st
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Huckle, Jno. Rush, S. Larkins, Frealove, Jon: Negus Cresby, Willsher, Negus, Malden Palmer, Odell,

Thomas Pearson & Richd Smith alias Lyon were received into Communion
Br Savill & Br Willsher declared that they talked with Br Joseph Negus who behaved well; justified the Church in their Censure of him, & found very Signs of his Real Con-

last [illegible] to be rather in a Impairing way or if he had received mindful of ye church in thinking & declaring yt he had tasted that the Lord is gracious: Br. Rush, Freelove, & palmer were appointed to go to him, & talk with him —

(Church-Meeting)

July 29th
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Pearson, Willsher, Crefsy, Jno Rush, Jonth Negus, palmer, Friend Custarson,

Sept 30th Church Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Rush, Lyon, Pearson, Malden, Huckle, palmer, Jno Rush, Crefsy, Jonath Negus, Willsher, Friend Stillington

(General Church Meeting)

Octob. 28. Br Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Negus, Jonth Negus, Huckle, Pearson, Freelove, Jno Larkins, Rush, Jno Rush, palmer, Crefsy, Odell, Malden, Friend Custarson, Fr Stillington, Br. Tom: Rush,

It appeared at this Meeting, yt since the Cast of this Nature (such was almost a Year ago) 6 had been added to the Church; and 3 had died: That there was Reason to hope a good Work of God was going forward not only as there had been those added to us; but also as there were others there seemed to be fit Materials to be laid in to ye Spls Building: that as to walk, there had been no Complaints of ye Members except One, Viz our young Brother Joseph Negus: who has behaved very ill in many Respects; has been reproved for his great Irregularities and been admonished again & again but to no good purpose.

at this Meeting, 2 were propounded for Communion; Viz Mary Stewardson, and Mary Coventon; and ye Lord's Day following John Servas (Son to our Sister Talkley) was proposed after ye Lord's Supper was administered —

Church Meeting
Dec. 2d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Makenefs, Smith, Alias Lyon, Huckle, Jo Larkins, Willsher, Rush, Br. Jon: Rush, Jon: Negus, Pearson, Crefsy, Jno, Rush, Negus, Odell, Malden, Wiles, Friend Custarson,

Jno Servas, Mary Stewardson, and Mary Coventon were taken into the church —

And it was at this Meeting agreed to unanimously to cast out of the Church, the next Meeting, our Br Joseph Negus, for his great Miscarriages

Church-Meeting.
Dec. 30.
present Br Sanderson — Savill, Rush, Servas, Willsher, Pearson, Smith, alias Lyon, Malden, Wiles, Tanch, Routon, Palmer, Jon: Negus, Jno. Rush, Friend Woodward, Fr Rush, Crefsy, Negus, Makenefs, Fr Stillington, at this Meeting, Joseph Negus was cast out of the Church — for reported acts of Uncleanness; Fr Lying Swearing, Drunkenness, & Fraud. &c

Church-Meeting.
Jan. 27th 1757.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Lyon, Jonth Negus, Rush, Routon, Willsher, Negus, Jo Larkins, Crefsy, Freelove, palmer, Malden, Friend Custarson and Br Stillington,

Church-Meeting
March 3d
present Br Sanderson, Jno Larkins, Willsher, Lyon; Pearson, Negus, Savill, Jno Rush, palmer, Jonath: Negus, Br: Tho Rush,

(Church Meeting)
March 31.
present Br. Sanderson —, Savill, Pearson, Lyon, Rush, Odell, Larkin, Fred Custarson Jno Rush, Frn Thos Rush, Negus, Jonath. Negus,

Church-Meetmg
April 28. 1757
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Lyon, Cresby, Pearson, Jno Rush, Odell, Friends Custarson, T. Rush, Stillington,

1st Church-Meeting
June —
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Lyon, Malden, Pearson, Cresby, Rush, Odell,

Church-Meeting
June 30th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Willsher, Lyon, Pearson, Cresby, Jno Rush, Wiles, Friends Custarson, Tho' Rush, Stillington,
N. B. There was a Sermon preached before ye Church-Meeting by Mr Provision of Ousle — and at this Church-Meeting the A following persons were propounded for Communion — Viz —
Wm Lyon Elias Smith, Thomas Leach, Samuel Palmer, & Anna Palmer.

Church-Meeting
Aug 4th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Lyon, Jno. Rush, Jon Negus, Cresby, Custarson, Pearson, Palmer, Negus, Willsher, Woodward, Anna Palmer, Samuel Palmer, Wm Lyon, and Tho' Leach were received into the Church —
Sister Bell was suspended from Communion for railing, & Backbiting, & for making mischief in Families —

Church-Meeting
Octob 20.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Mackeness, Lyon, Pearson, I. Larkins, Rush, Palmer, Malden, W. Lyon, Custarson, Fr Stillington, Jno. Rush, Jon Negus —

Church-Meeting
Nov. 10th
present. Br Sanderson, Willsher, Savill, Franch, Cresby, I Larkins, Jon Negus, Malden, R Lyon Negus, Odell, Rush, Jno Rush, Pearson,

Wm Lyon, Friends Willson, T. Rush, Stillington, —— at this church-meeting, it was unanimously agreed to dismiss at his Request, our Brother Philip Smith (who is now settled in London) to the church there under the Care of the Revd Mr Pike. which has been done accordingly —

Dec: 22. Church-Meeting
present. Sanderson, Willsher, Rush, Negus, Freelove, Jon Negus, Odell, Palmer, Franch, I Larkins, Jno Rush, Cresby, R. Lyon, Wm Lyon Friends T. Rush, Custarson, Stillington, Br. Pearson, At this meeting many of the Congregation (in consequence of the publick Invitation given to it) were present, & joined in ye Supplications offered up not only for the Church but for ye Nation on ye Account of the Calamities of War, and Scarcity; & Dearness of provisions we groan under —

Jan 19th (Church Meeting)
1758
Present Br. Sanderson, Savill Willsher Rush, Malden, Pearson, R Lyon, Cresby, I Larkin, Palmer, Wm Lyon, Jon Negus, John Rush, Friends Willson, T Rush.
At this Meeting, our Friends Ebenezer Custarson, his Wife & Wm Stillington who had had occasion to Communicate with us for some Years, were admitted as Stated Members —

Mrs Hardwick was proposed for Communion —

March 2d Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Rush Freelove, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Jno Larkins Willsher, Pearson, Palmer, Cresby, Odell, Malden, Huckle, Jon: Negus Custarson, Stillington,
Mrs Hardwick was taken into the church

March 30. Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Huckle, Rush, Willsher, Lyon Wm Lyon, Pearson, Negus, J. Negus

Friend T. Rush

168 A General Church-Meeting.
May 3d. 1758
present Br Sanderson, Freelove,
J. Larkins, Willsher, Maldon J. Larkins,
Lyon, Rush, Savill, Crefsy, J. Negus,
Thompson, Jno Rush, Odell, Huckle, Wiles,
Custarson, ——— It appeard at this
Meeting, that [redacted] about a Year and Half
since the last of this Kind, wch was a
about a Year & a Half ago, We had lost
9 of our Members, and had taken in Eleven:
" That as to peace there was no Cause to com
plain of the Want of that: the Church now
having enjoyd more than it did then, and
had for many Years.
" As to Walk there had been some few
Disorders: one of our Brethren viz Joseph
Negus had for his continued Irregularity
& Evil Conduct been cast out of ye Church:
That our Sister Bell was under Suspension
for Evil Speaking; and our Sister Hill of
Ellsham kept a Disorderly House
That our Br & Sister Block behaved very
strangly towards the Church & Ministry
never coming to the Lords-Supper nor ever
to hear Br
" That as to Zeal & Liveliness there was much
Cause to complain of the Decay of it,
" That some Success had attend the
Word but this was but Little in Com-
parison.
— Fervent Prayers were made for
our Peace and Prosperity; and that
the D. Displeasures towards us
might be Sanctified. ———
= At the same Time, the Pastor
and 2 of the Deacons viz Br Savill
& Woodward were appointed to talk
with, & admonish our Sister Bell &c
= Br Freelove & B French were desired
to speak to our Br & Sister Block,
and to admonish them touching their
Behaviour
= Br Huckle & Br Custarson were
appointed to visit our Sisters Willmot
Wright, & Simpson who are determined
from the House of God & know how they
do, & to endeavour to strengthen their Hands
= [redacted], Our Brethren Willsher and
Jennings were appointed to talk with
our Sister Ann Grove who labours under
Darker Temptations & Discouragements
so as never to come to the Lords-Table.
and Castley, our Br Rush and Br Malden
were appointed to go to & admonish our Sister
Hill ———

June 1st Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Negus, Huckle,
pearson, Rush, Willsher, Lyon,
Malden, Wiles, Jno Rush, Palmer,
Jon: Negus, Wm Lyon Fench, Stillington,
Friend T. Rush. ——
Stephen Odell and Hannah Larkin
were proposed for Communion.
Sister Bell was restored to Communion.
and the church had Satisfaction in the
main touching the rest, whose particular
Cases had been ordered to be enquired
into, except yt of our Sister Ann
Groves, whom the Brethren yt were
appointed to talk with her, had
had no Opportunity of speaking to (in
their Way) as yet ———

Church-Meeting
June 29th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush,
Huckle, J. Palmer, pearson, Crefsy,
Lyon, Custarson, Jon: Negus, W. Lyon,
Willsher, Jno Rush, Stillington,
Palmer, Odell, Malden
Stephen Odell and Hannah Larkin
were taken into the Church ———

No church-Meeting in July but a
Sermon by Mr Grigg.
No church Meeting in August but
a Meeting of the Congregation for
Prayer (Weather being very Bad)
Sept 28 because of ye Harvest. the
(Church Meeting)
present Br. Sanderson, Savill,
Huckle, Rush, Fench, Wm Lyon,
Lyon, pearson, Jno Rush, St. Odell,
Custarson, Willsher, Jonath Negus,
J. Larkins, Fred Tho Rush,
John Manning and John Whiteman
were proposed for Communion.
Br Willsher reported yt he and Br
Jennings had talked with our Sister
Ann Grove, and that she appeard to be
under the power of Melancholy-the church
thought that Nothing could be done in her
peculiar Case but praying for her ———

9/Nov. 9. 1758 Church-Meeting.
present Br Sanderson, Rush, J. Larkins, Savill, Fanch, Lyon, Jonth Negus, Willsher, Pearson, Negus, Crefsy, Custarson, Huchle, Malden, Wm Lyon, Brown, Stillington, Frind T. Rush, Jno Rush

John Manning and John Whiteman were taken into ye Church.

Dec. 7th Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Willsher, Fanch, Friend Rush, Jamt Larkins, Huchle, Pearson, R Lyon, Crefsy, Manning, J. Rush, Routon, Brown,

Church-Meeting.
Jan. 4th 1759.
present Br Sanderson. Rush, J. Palmer, Whiteman, Savill, Lyon, Willsher, Huchle, Malden, Jon: Negus, T. Palmer, J. Rush Stillington, Routon, Frind T. Rush,

Church-Meeting
Feb. 1st
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Jth Negus, J. Larkins, Pearson, Rush, Lyon, Br Whiteman, Stillington, Jno Rush, J. Odell, Manning, Crefsy, Huchle, Jervas, Custarson, Fanch,

March. 1st Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Lyon, Rush, Crefsy, Wm Lyon, Jon: Negus, Jno. Rush, Manning, Negus, Malden, J. Larkins, Custarson, Odell,

Wm Negus was propounded for Communion

March 29th Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Rush, Routon, Willsher, Pearson, Wm Lyon, Stillington, Lyon, Jonath Negus, J. Rush, Odell, Whiteman, Brown, Manning, Palmer, Odell, Negus, Friend T. Rush, Frd Woodward, Wm Negus was admitted a Member.

May 3th Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, T. Larkins, Crefsy, W. Negus, Willsher, Fanch, Rush, Manning, Odell, Pearson, Lyon, Negus, Jonth Negus, Routon, Malden, Custarson, Friends Woodward T. Rush,

May 31. Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Rush, Wm Negus, Pearson, Palmer, Lyon, Jonth. Negus, Willsher, Stillington, Crefsy, Custarson, Malden, Odell, Jno Rush, Negus,

(Church-Meeting)
June 20. Br. Sanderson, Negus, Pearson, Willsher, Jonth Negus, Wm Negus, Malden J. Larkins, J. Palmer, Rush, Jno. Rush, Manning, T. Palmer, Custarson, Friend Tho Rush

Church-Meeting
Aug 2 present Br Sanderson, Savill, Pearson, Willsher, J. Palmer, Negus, W. Negus, J. Negus, Lyon, J. Rush, Manning, Huchle, Crefsy,

Church-Meeting
Aug. 30
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Crefsy, Willsher, Wm Negus, Pearson, Lyon, Huchle, Custarson, Whiteman, Rush, Manning, Wm. Lyon, Odell, Malden, Palmer, Jno Rush, Brown, Friend T. Rush

Elizabeth Huchle was proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting
Octob 4th Br. Sanderson, Savill, Huchle, J. Larkins, Cosc, J. Larkin Whiteman, Rush, Lyon, Crefsy Custarson, Malden, Pearson, W. Negus, Manning, Wm Lyon, J. Rus Brown, Negus, Jonth Negus, Fanch Willsher, Friend Tho Rush

Eliz. Huchle was taken into the Church

17th 1757 Church-Meeting
Nov. 1. present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Jonth Negus, Huckle, Crosy, Lyon, pearson, Wm. Negus, Jno. Rush, Negus, Wm. Lyon, Jno Larkins, Willsher, Brown, Custarson, Odell, Steph. Odell, Manning, Fanch,

Dec. 27th Church-Meeting
present, Br. Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Stillington, Willsher, Lyon, Manning, Jno. Rush, Wm. Negus, pearson, Huckle, Malden, Custarson, Whiteman, Jonth Negus,

Church-Meeting
Jan. 24. 1760.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Huckle, Roughton, Willsher, Fanch, Jno Larkins, Lyon, I. Larkins, Pearson, Wm Negus, Wm Brown, Wm Lyon, Jonth Negus, Manning, Negus, Odell, Crefsy, Malden, Custarson, Stillington, Friend I. Rush.

Church-Meeting
Feb. 28. present Br Sanderson, Jno Larkin, Savill, Rush, Freelove, Wm Negus, Manning, Pearson, Crefsy, Lyon, Malden, Jonth Negus, Custarson, St Odell, palmer, Huckle, Wm Lyon,

Church-Meeting
April 3d. present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Wm Negus, pearson, Huckle, Crefsy, Rush, Lyon, I. Larkins, Manning, I. Rush I. Larkins, I. Negus, Willsher, St Odell, Palmer, Custarson, Negus, Friend Rush Stillington Wm Lyon, Odell,

Wm Rayner and Wm. Bull were proposed for Communion

May 1st Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, I. Larkin, I. Larkin, Crefsy, Rush, pearson, Freelove, palmer, Lyon, Malden, Willsher, Whiteman, Wm Negus, Jonth Negus, Custarson, Wm Lyon, Odell, St. Odell, Jno Rush, Fanch, Stillington: Friends T Rush & T Woodward

Wm Rayner and Wm Bull were taken into the Church.

Church-Meeting
May 29th present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Bull, Willsher, Lyon, Crefsy, Jno Rush, Odell, Wm Lyon, Huckle, Jonth Negus, palmer, Jno Larkins

Church-Meeting
July 3d present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, I. Larkin, palmer, Huckle, I. Negus, Rayner, Wm Negus, Lyon, Bull, I Rush pearson, Crefsy, palmer, Odell, Brown, Custarson,

Dinah and Sarah Woodward were propounded for Communion.

Church-Meeting
July 29. present Br. Sanderson, Savill, I. Larkins, Rush, Wm Negus, Lyon, Huckle, Bull, Willsher, I. Negus, Custarson, Stillington, I. Negus, Crefsy, I. Rush, Odell, W Lyon, I. Odell, Leach, Cooper, Brown, Malden, Negus, pearson,

Dinah, and Sarah Woodward were both taken into the Church and Edward Manning was proposed for Communion

Sept 4th Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Huckle, Whiteman, Wm Negus, Brown, pearson, Rush, Lyon, Willsher, Fanch, Crefsy, Wm Lyon, I. Larkins, I. Negus D. Negus, Rayner, I. Odell, Malden, I. Rush, Custarson, Friend Tom Rush

Edward Manning was received into the Church. and Betty Kratt and Abigal Wells proposed for Communion.

171

1760 Church-Meeting -
Octob. 2d.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Huckle, Rush, I. Larkin, Whiteman, Wm Negus, Willsher, Frosloor, I. Negus, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Rayner, French, Brown, Coxe, Stillington, I. Rush, I Larkin, Manning, Odell, Leach,

Elizebeth Knott and Abigull Wells were taken into the Church.

(Church-Meeting)

Octob 30.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, I. Larkin, Rayner, I. Larkins, Wm Negus Rush, Manng, Pearson, Willsher, D Negus, Stillington, I. Rush, Frind Rush I. Negus

Mary Bull was proposed for Communion.

Church-Meeting

Dec 18.
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Huckle, I. Larkin, Custerson, Willsher, Whiteman, Rayner, Stillington, Odell, Manning, Tanch Rush, I Larkin, Frind Tho' Rush,

Mary Bull was admitted a Member

(Church-Meeting)

Jan: 15. 1761. present Br. Sanderson, I. Larkin, Savill, Jervis, Wm Negus, I. Negus, Lyon, Manning, Rayner, Stillington, Rush, Custerson, Odell, John Rush, Frind Tho' Rush

(Church Meeting)

Feb. 26.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Manning, I. Larkins, I. Larkins, Lyon, Rush, Wm Lyon, I. Rush, Jon: Negus, Custerson, Stillington, Odell, Malden, Wm Negus,

April 2d Church-Meeting.
present Br. Sanderson, Rush Lyon, Whiteman Negus, Odell, Rush, Manning, I. Larkin, palmer, W. Negus,

Dorothy Larkin, Ann Palmer, and Mary Hensman were proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting
April 30th.
present Br Sanderson, Rush, Rayner, I Larkin, Custerson, Whiteman Brown, I. Rush, Lyon, Manning, palmer, I. Odell, Stillington, Willsher I. Larkins, Wm Lyon, Negus, Jon: Negus Cooper,

Dorothy Larkin, Ann palmer, and Mary Hensman were taken in to the Church

June 4th: Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Negus, I. Larkin, Lyon, Rush, Wm Lyon, Malden, Wm Negus, Custerson, I Rush, Jon: Negus, Tanch, Manning, I. Odell, Palmer Huckle, Stillington, Sam: Larkin, Frind Jon: Rush

Sister Abigal Wells, alias Ridley, was suspended for her unsuitable Marriage

July 2d Church-Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Willsher, Rush, Odell, Negus, I. Odell, Jon: Negus, Bull, Wm Negus, Whiteman, I. palmer Jennings, Custerson,

Brother Sam: Palmer preached this Day to ye church & Congregation (as he had done one whole Lords day before) and being approved of by ye Church, he was now solemnly recommended by them in yr prayers to ye Grace of God for the Work whereunto he appointed to be called

July 30. (Church-Meeting)
present Sanderson, Savile, Huckle I. palmer, Bull, Jervas, Frosloor Wm Negus, Lyon, Willsher, Negus Odell, I. Odell, Manning, I. Larkins,

Church-Meeting

Sept 3d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, S. Odell, J Negus. J Larkin, Manning, Lyon, Wm Negus, Fanch, Spalmer, Whiteman, Rayner, Negus, Jervas,

a General Church Meeting

Octob. 1st
present Br Sanderson, J. Larkin, Frealove, Savill, Huckle, Whiteman, Odell, S Odell, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Wm Negus, Manning, S. Larkin Wiles, Custerson, Jo Negus

at this Meeting it appear'd yt since ye last of ye same Mth, yt we had lost 16. and had added 17th that there had been no Instances of very bad Behaviour; that the Church had continued to enjoy peace but that there too much Coldness & Indifference or Coart in many of the Members: and at the same Time; suitable petitions & Thanksgivings were offer'd up

Ann Hare, Temperance Church & and Eliz Hampton were proposed for Communion

Church Meeting

Nov. 4th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Freelove, Rush, Jo: Negus, Willsher, Wm Negus, Lyon, Rayner, Manning, Negus, Odell, Brown,

Temperance Church & Ann Hare were taken into Communion

Elizabeth Thompson desired to wait some Time longer

Church Meeting

Dec. 3d
present Br Sanderson, Savill, J. Negus, Custerson, Huckle, Willsher, Rush, Malden, Negus, Lyon, Manning, palmer, Odell, S. Larkin, Wm Negus, Stillington, Palmer, Sksh. Odell,

Church Meeting

Jan 7th 1762.
present Br Sanderson, J. Larkin, Rayner, Frealove, Rush, Lyon, S. Larkin, Cox, Manning, Odell, Negus, S Odell, Negus Stillington, (Mr Willes prayed) Savill,

Tho' Broadfield & Sarah his Wife, Mary & Elizabeth Frealove were proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting

Feb 4th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Whiteman, J. Negus. Brown Rayner, Lyon, Willsher, Huckle, Manning, Stillington, S. Larkin, J Larkin, Wm Negus, Odell, Custerson, Odell, Negus,

Tho' Broadfield & Sarah his Wife Mary and Elizabeth Frealove were received into the Church

Church-Meeting

March 4th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Custerson, Whiteman, Lyon, Wm Negus, Rush, Rayner, Palmer, Willsher Negus, Manning, Odell, Stp Odell, Jon Negus, S Larkin, Cox,

John Kilpin & Ann Wells were proposed for Communion

And our Sister Abigal Ridgley who had been suspended on ye Account of her Marriage, was restored.

April 1st Church-Meeting

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Freelove, Huckle, Wm Negus, Jo: Negus, Jervas, Rayner, Lyon, Negus, Brown, Manning, Odell, palmer, S. Odell, Stillington, Wm Lyon,

Jno Kilpin and Ann Wells were taken into the Church:
and John Peck and Martha Odell were proposed for Communion.

(Church-Meeting)

April 29th
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Rush, Freelove, Whiteman, S. Larkin, W. Lyon, Jon: Negus, W. Negus, Lyon, Negus, J. Larkin, Manning, Brown, S. Odell, Malden, Odell, Stillington, Wm J. Rush

John Peck and Martha Odell were taken into the Church

29 June 3d (Church-Meeting)
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Whiteman, Negus, Rush, Manning, Lyon, Willsher, Jon.n Negus, J. Larkin, Odell, Brown, Malden,

Tho' Charifs, John Baffet, and James Whiteman were proposed for Communion

Church-Meeting

July. 1.
present Br Sanderson, Huckle, Rayner, Fosslove, Jno Whiteman, John Larkin, Bull, Negus, Crofsy, Jon.th Negus, Brown, Willsher, Rush, Stillington, J. Odell, Wm Negus, Broadsell, Odell, Custerson, Lyon, Kilpin,

The charifs, John Baffet, and James Whiteman, were taken into the church

There was no Church-Meeting in August, because of the Harvest.

Wm Wells, & Tho Woodward were proposed for Communion ye Sabbath Day following at the Table, when the Church was assembled to receive ye Lords Supper.

Church-Meeting

Sept 2d
present Br. Sanderson, Huckle, Savill, Fosslove, Palmer, Negus, Rush, J. Larkin, Lyon, Jon.th Negus, Kilpin, Rayner Willsher, Odell, James Whiteman, Custerson Kilpin, Wm Wells, and Tho' Woodward Junr, were received into the church.

and Sarah Pollitt, Eliz: Bellamy and Sarah Palmer, were propounded for Communion

Sept 30th Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Savill, Huckle, Fosslove, Willsher, Palmer, Baffet J. Whiteman, Lyon, Odell, Jervas, Rush, Negus, Funch, J. Larkin, J. Negus, Stillington, Stph Odell &c.

Sarah Pollitt, Eliz. Bellamy and Sarah Palmer, were taken in to the Church

Eliz: Aivs and Mary Rollins were proposd for Communion

Church-Meeting
Octob. 28th.
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, Rainer, J. Whiteman, J Larkin, Wm Lyon, Funch, J. Negus, Rush, Malden, Crofsy, Lyon, Palmer, Stillington, Baffet, J. Whiteman, Odell, Willsher Negus,

Eliz. Aivs, and Mary Rollins were taken into the Church.

Wm Tansley was proposd for Communion.

Church-Meeting

Nov. 25th
present Br Sanderson, Huckle, Brown, J. whiteman, Rush, Malden, J. Larkin, Funch, Stillington, Willsher Kilpin, Negus, J Odell, Rainer, Odell, Lyon, Custerson, J Negus,

Wm Tansley was admitted a member

Edward Wells, and Hannah his Wife as also Eliz Pollard were proposed for Communion.

Church Meeting

Dec. 23
present Br. Sanderson, Savill, J. Larkin, Jn Whiteman, Coe, Baffet, Tansley, Willsher, Lyon, Negus Rayner Rush, Jon.th Negus, Brown, Wm Lyon, Odell,

Ed: Wells, his Wife, and Eliz Pollard were taken into the Church

& Samuel Custerson was proposed for Communion

1763: Church-Meeting
Jan. 20
present Br Sanderson, Custerson, Negus, Tansley, Jno Whiteman, Wm Negus, Jervas, Baffet, Macharnas, Jonath Negus, Ed. Wells Rush, Stillington, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Odell, Palmer, Stph Odell, Malden, Francis Tho' Ault & Tho' Woodward

Samuel Custerson was taken into the Church

Frances Lansdale and Ann Cowley were proposed for Communion

1741

Church-Meeting

March. 3d.

present Br Sanderson, Tansley, Wm Lyon, Rush, Ed: Wells, S. Custerson, Whiteman, Kilpin, Negus, Willsher, Custerson, Broadsell, Lyon, Odell. Wm Negus,

Frances Lansdell was taken into the Church: Ann Covely was prevented from being at the Meeting by coming before her Time —— 6 were propounded for Communion; namely Jonathan Hopkins, George Man—, Eliz: Green, Susanna Rush, Ann Coombs, Mary Maynard.

Church-Meeting

March. 31.

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Jervas, J. Negus, Basset, I. Larkins, Twelves, Peck, Shillington, Wm Lyon, Negus, Malden, Wells, Rayner, Hughe Lyon, Larkin, Brown, Sr Odell, Kilpin, Rush, Tanch, Odell, Whiteman, Broadsell, Custerson, I whiteman, W. Wells, . the above 6 were taken into the church together with Ann Covely who was prevented from coming the last Church-Meeting—

Sherman Jefferies, Eliz: Beard, and Sarah Flanders were proposed for Communion ——

A Generall Church-Meeting

April 20th

present Br Sanderson, Savill, Basset, Hopkins, Twelves, Tansley, Jervas, Man, Ed. Wells, I. Larkin, Lyon, W. Lyon, Kilpin, Tanch, Willsher, Odell, Rush, Shillington, Rayner, Whiteman, Negus, J. Negus, Sr Odell, Malden, Custerson, I. Custerson, Broadsell, Jno Woodward, Rush, at this Meeting it appeared that since the last Generall one, Eleven had dyed; and that Three and thirty (33) had been added to us — that as to walk — there had been no Complaints of disorderly walk (behaviour except those relating to our Br Wm Negus, whose Sloath & Idleness was so notorious that he had been suspended as well as reproved; & who tho' admonished again & again yet still continued to behave ill in that Respect — the Church therefore thought it their Duty to ~~[illegible]~~ depute 3 of the Brethren viz Br Savill, Br Willsher, and Br Daniel Negus to admonish him afresh &

that the church continued to enjoy Peace, but that we had too much Cause to lament ye want of Zeal —

Suitable prayers & praises were offered up on this Occasion.

At this Meeting, Sherman Jefferys, Sarah Flanders, and Eliz. Beard were taken into the church —

And two were propounded for Communion viz Sarah Saunders Mary Dunham ~~[illegible]~~.

Church-Meeting

June 2d.

present Br Sanderson, S. Custerson, I. Larkin, Wm Lyon, Rush, Lyon, Shillington, Negus, ~~Hughe~~, Tanch, I. Palmer Willsher, Kilpin, Jon. Negus, I. Larkin, Odell, S. Odell, Brown,

Sarah Saunders and Mary Dunham (now Beddom) were taken into the Church.

John Cooper, and Jon Maynard were propounded for Communion.

Church-Meeting

June 30.

present Br Sanderson, Whiteman, Tansley, Rush, Rayner, Lyon, Wm Lyon, James Whiteman Palmer, Custerson, I. Woodward, Bull, I. Negus, Wells, S. Larkin, Basset, Odell, S. Odell,

Jno Cooper and Wm Maynard were taken into the Church ——

and Sarah Kitchiner was proposed for Communion ——

Church-Meeting

Aug: 9

present Br Sanderson—, Rush, Jervas, S. Custerson, Tansley,

Rush, Hopkins, Thompson, Brown, J. Odell, Bull, Kilpin, Odell, palmer, Larkin, Negus, Jo: Negus, Custerson,

Sarah Kitchiner was taken into the church.

Br Wm Stillington was suspended from Communion on the Account of Intemperance & some other instances of unbecoming Conduct

Church-Meeting

Octob. 13th Br Sanderson, Huckle, Fanch, present Br Tansley, S. Custerson, Rush, T. Woodward, Malden, Lyon, Odell, Negus, J. Negus Custerson.

Mary Jefferys was proposed for Communion.

Church-Meeting

Nov. 10th

Present Br. Sanderson, Whiteman Cox, W. Lyon Maynard, [illegible] Tansley, Rush, Lyon, Rayner, Kilpin, Jonth Negus, Tho Woodward Odell, J. Odell, Custerson S. Custerson, Malden, [illegible],

Mary Jefferys was admitted a Member

True Rumery, and Mary Barter were proposed for Communion.

Dec. 15. Church Meeting

present, Br Sanderson, Jervas, Huckle, Tansley, palmer Lyon W. Lyon, Wells, J. Odell, Rush, Negus, Broadsell, Kilpin, Whiteman, J. Negus, Odell, Custerson, Fanch, Brown, Wiles

True Rumery and Mary Barker were taken into the Church

Church-Meeting

Jan: 12. 1764.

present Br Sanderson, Willsher Malden, S. Custerson, Huckle, Whiteman, Rush, Tansley, Lyon, Palmer Wells, T. Woodward, Custerson S. Larkin,

At this Meeting the 5 following Brethren were nominated for Deacons, Br. palmer Br Custerson; Br Jennings, Br Jon: Negus, and Br Steph. Odell

N. had sundry Meetings for prayer on Account of ye Drought. wch had been, & many a season which

(Church Meeting)

March 8

present Br Sanderson, [illegible], Huckle, Fanch, Lyon, Rush, S. Larkin, Tansley, Willsher, Jonth Negus, Malden, Custerson, T. Woodward,

The Congregation Joined in ye prayers of this Meeting (being invited) on ye Account of the Season

Church-Meeting

April 5th.

present Br Sanderson, Odell, S Custerson, Prior, W. Lyon, Lyon, Willsher, J. Negus, J. Whiteman, Tansley, Kilpin, Rush, Negus,

Robert Castleman, Judith Vincent, and Mary payne were proposed for Communion

Thos Brethren nominated in January to serve in ye Office of Deacon were unanimously chosen at this Meeting.

Church-Meeting

May 3d present Br Sanderson, Prior, Rush, S. palmer, Willsher, S. Larkin, Lyon, Baffet, S. Larkin, Kilpin, Odell, Malden, Stillington, Jennings, palmer, Negus, J. Negus, Whiteman, Maynard, Wm Negus, Fanch, Jefferies, S. Custerson,

" Robt Castleman, Judith Vincent, and Mary payne were taken into ye Church.

" 3 of the 5 Brethren chosen Deacons declared their Acceptance of the Office viz Br palmer, Br Jennings, Br Odell:

" Br Custerson was absent: & Br Jon: Negus desired a Months Time to consider of it, before he give in his Answer.

Br Stillington was restored to Communion; he appearing sincerely to have repented of his Faults; (not having been known to repent 'em.

Br Wm Negus, who also was present, was reproved: (and admonished) for his continuing to neglect his Business; and not better supporting his Family, as he might do, by ye Labour of his Hands.

Church-Meeting

May 31.

present Br Sanderson, Jo: Whiteman, Odell, Baffet, Rush, Lyon, Willsh Negus, Jonth Negus, J. Cooper,

Br Jon Negus declared yt he would, if was the Church's Desire, act as a Deacon and Br Custerson declared, that Mrs James Barter

Church-Meeting
June 20th
present Br Sanderson, Wm Lyon, S. Custerson, Maynard, Tansley, J. Negus, Rush, Cox, T. Woodward, Willsher, Negus, Palmer, Custerson, Jeffries, Malden, Lyon, Stillington,

Church-Meeting
Aug: 2d
present Br Sanderson, Odell, Tansley, T. Woodward, J. Negus, Palmer, Willsher, S. Custerson, J. Whiteman, Custerson, Rush, Stillington, Prior, Bull,

Church-Meeting
Aug: 30th
present Br Sanderson, Odell, Tansley, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Palmer, Rush, Negus, J. Negus, T. Woodward, S. Custerson,

Church-Meeting
Octob 4
present Br Sanderson, Huckle, Hopkins, Basset, Cooper, Lyon, Willsher Negus, Custerson, Odell, Brown, Tansley, S. Custerson, Wells, Fauch,

Church-Meeting
Nov. 1st
present Br Sanderson, Lyon Tansley, Malden, Odell, S. Custerson, Rush, T. Woodward, Palmer, Basset, Prior, Cooper, Fauch, Custerson, Larkin, J. Negus,

Our Sister Bull, now Savill, was suspended by the Unanimous Consent of ye church, for her unsuitable Marriage &c

Church-Meeting
Nov. 29th.
present Br Sanderson, Kilpin, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Man, Larkin, Huckle, Basset, Whiteman, Willsher Tansley, Odell, Malden, Custerson, S. Custerson, Palmer, Wells, Fauch,

Thos Rush, who was recommended to our Christian Regard as a Church, in that of Lyon of which he has been for some Years a Member; was unanimously received amongst us ——

Jan 3. 1765. Church-Meeting
present Br Sanderson, Huckle, Macharness, Jno. Cooper, Lyon, Jno Whiteman, J. Negus, Odell, —— Mrs Leach was propos'd for Communion ——

Church Meeting
Jan. 31.
present Br Sanderson, Willsher Negus, Jona Negus, Coxe, Malden, Broadbelt, Lyon, Custerson, San. Custerson Palmer, Odell, Jefferies, Jno Cooper, Basset, Whiteman, Fauch, Rush,

Mrs Leach desired to wait a little Longer before she gives in her Experience.

Church Meeting
Feb. 28.
present Br. Sanderson Willsher, Castleman, J. Negus, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Jeffries, Tansley, Tho Woodward, Tho Rush,

April 4th Church Meeting
present Br. Sanderson, Lyon, Odell, Palmer, Willsher, Malden, Custerson, Wm Wells, Jno Negus, Jno Cooper, Thos Woodward, Rush, Castleman —

Church-Meeting
May 2d
present Br Sanderson, Negus, Odell, Rush, Wm Wells, S. Custerson, Custerson, T. Rush, Wiles, Wells, Willsher, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Fauch, J. Cooper J. Negus, Whiteman, J Whiteman

Laetitia Eastoff was proposed for Communion —

a general Church Meeting
May 30th present Sanderson, Willsher, Rush, Cooper, Wm Wells, Custerson, Lyon, Kilpin, Whiteman, J. Whiteman, Odell, Huckle, Hopkins, Negus, J. Negus, Leech, Man, Jeffries, Basset, Wiles, Palmer, Brown, Raynor, Maynard, Tho Rush Junr, Larkin, Jno Larkin.
Laetitia Eastoff was taken into ye Church.
Our Sister Savill, who has been suspended for some months — was restored ——
~~Mrs Negus to be admonished by Br Rush and Br Odell~~ ——
At this Meeting, it appeard, that since the last General One, 15 had been added to the Church, and that 14 had died:
That as to Walk and Behaviour of the Members, there had been so few Complaints as only Sister Savill suspended, who was at this Meeting restored — Yet there appeard too much of a Lukewarm Spirit and Want of Zeal in Prayers and Supplications now under Consideration — Br Jona Negus continu under Suspension: and 2 of the Co

Brothren Viz Br Rush, & Br Odell were deputed to go to him, and admonish him

Church Meeting

July 4th
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Odell, T. Rush, Leach, Maynard, J. Whiteman, Palmer, J. Larkin, Stillington, W. Wells, J. Negus,

Br Rush & Br Odell who had been deputed to talk with our Br Wm Negus, declared so much Satisfaction concerning him; that the church seemd inclined to restore him: and to make Way for this, said Brothren are appointed by them to enquire of some of his nearest Neighbours what his Behaviour is, and whether he appears to mind his Business

Church-Meeting

Aug 29.
present Br Sanderson, Rush, Willsher, palmer, Negus, J. Negus, Tansley, T. Woodward, Odell, Wells, Kilpin, Breadsell, Lyon, Jefferies, Mr Wills of Isworsal prayd

The affair of Br Wm Negus was postponed because our Country Brothren were absent

Church-Meeting

Nov. 21.
present Br Sanderson, Rush, T. Rush, Malden palmer, Custerson, Wells, Lyon, J. Custerson, Odell, ansley, Whiteman, J. Negus, at this Meeting, Catherine Rush the Wife of our Brother Tho' Rush Junior, was received into full Communion with us, in Consequence of a Dismission of her from the church of Christ at Hemel Hempstead to us, which was read at our church Meeting this Day and approved of.

also at this Meeting, our Br Wm Negus who has been suspended for some considerable Time, was restored to Communion

(Church-Meeting)

Dec: 19
present Br Sanderson, Odell, J. Whiteman, J. Cooper, Tansh, Jonath. Negus, Rush, Custerson, J. Custerson,

Jan: 16, 1766.
present Br Sanderson, Willsher, Rush, J. Custerson, Tho' Rush, Custerson, Woodward, Lyon, Wm Lyon, Jona: Negus.

It is somewhat observable that there was no member under admonition nor Suspension at the Decease of our Dear Pastor.

Mr Sandersons Death & Dying Counsell

1766

Jan. 20 Mr Sanderson being by the providence of God in dying circumstances, there was this Evening a Meeting of Prayer that the Lord would be pleased to sanctify his hand upon us herein and support our dear Pastor &c

Jan. 30 It having pleased the Lord to remove our dear Pastor from Earth to Heaven, there was a meeting of Prayer to God desireing He would sanctify his Providence to the Church & People and direct us in seeking out after another Pastor when it was unanimously agreed that Mr Belsha should write to Doctor Conder enquiring after Mr Jennour who some week before was recommended to Mr Sanderson as an Assistant accordingly bro: D. Negus & bro: Odell waited upon Him with the Churches request who promised to comply with it

Feb: 1A A meeting of the Church for Prayer to the Lord for the above reason the Brethren engaged were bro: D. Negus, Huckle, Maulden, Bassett, Odell — at this meeting some of the dying exhortation of our late Pastor was read and thought proper they should be here recorded for the Churches use & profit

Jan: 29. 1766 being the Monday Night before Mr Sandersons Dec, he was very Calm and Composed in his Mind, and often said, He believe he should Die soon, and I shall see the People face no more! But I bless God that I was brought amongst them, and have been Continued so many Years in the Race; Lord it was a Thing I did not at first see into

But having a Call in the Providence I threw it into the Hand to Accept the Call, not knowing what the Lord might intend to do with me, and I hope I have through the whole Race of God upon me, been carried on until this Night in much Peace, and can say it hath been my Daily Prayer before God, that there might be Peace, and Love among the Brethren; and I hope now the Lord is answering my Prayer, in giveing my Brethren a Praying Spirit for me; I desire them not to pray for me much longer Life, for I think it will not be Granted; but I pray that I may have Patience to bear what the Lord may see fit to lay upon me. Pray tell my Brethren to cleave close together in Love, and to be too hasty in the Choise of a Minister. But tell them to meet often together, and pray to the Lord to Direct them; I have had many Thoughts of late about You, I pray You to take care of Prejudice: I would have you have a Calvinist, or one like Mr Bunyan, or some of those good Men who hold the same Doctrine which I have Preached amongst You. Do not have an Arminian; nor a Presbyterian; nor must you have a Baptist, for this Church hath been an Independant Church for very many Years: Neither must you have one Independant, for some of them will not do; But one that Builds on the

same Foundation that I always Laboured to Do, Christ being the Cheif Corner Stone. And tell my dear Brethren, I think I shall see their Face no more, and I hope I can say, without savering of Pride, be ye followers of me as dear Children, so far as I followed Christ! Then he said Lord make me Patient, Oh! I would not Murmur, nor Repine, against my good God for ever so much! Then he asked if we did perceive him any ways Discontented! To which we answered no. He said no, I hope not, I desire to be Delivered from such a Spirit. I have often thought of Mr Soames, who when he came to Die, said, when I look back into Life, and see all my Omissions, and Commissions, and short comings; If the Lord was to be strict to mark Iniquity, O Lord I, could not stand before Thee. But why do I mention His Name, for he so far exceeds me that I am not worthy to have my Name named on the same Day with his. There's a Verse in a Hymn I will Repeat to You for it Suits me,

A Guilty Weak and helpless Worm,
On thy kind Arms I fall:
Be thou my Strength and Righteousness,
My Jesus and my All. (Wats 2d 90 Hymn)

Then he said I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is both Able (mind that said he) both Able and Willing to keep that which I have Committed to his Care against that Day. Now said he if I was to be asked wither I would Live or Die! my Answer should be, as the Lord pleaseth; I will not Chuse for my self, my Love shall Chuse for me; Not my Will, but thine be done: He greatly desired to speak for God now, and he said, he thought God helped him so to do.

The 21st] This Night he remained in a very re-
Jan: signed Frame of Soul, and Prayed very much, with great earnestness on many Accounts but specially for his dear People who lay near his Heart! O Lord (said he) feed thy People! O bless thy Church, and grant that they may go on Harmoniously: O send them a Man after thine own Heart; that may feed thy People with Knowledge and Understanding, that may break the bread of Life to them, and lead them in all Truth, and Comfort them, when I thy poor Worm shall be no more, as to this World and State.

I believe I shall Die. Oh! if I live, may I live to the Lord, or if I Die, I may Die unto the Lord, that wither I live or Die I may be the Lords. I have often and often, Prayed to the Lord that I might be an example to my Church and People both in Living and Dying and I desire to bless God, it hath been in some measure (as I hope) as I desired.

Then he prayed the Lord, and said, O, blessed be the Lord! I hope that Day spoken of in Scripture, hath not come on me unawares; Oh! may I not make Shipwrack of faith! Oh! may I be faithful unto Death! and thou wilt give me a Crown of Life. He said it may be expected, when such Men as we Die, that we should speak something in Confirmation of the Doctrines that we preached. So I charg you, now about me to bear Witness to what I now speak before God; that I am not ashamed of my faith, nor of the great Doctrines I preached to you my Hearers: I now let you know, for your encouragement, and particularly my Young Friends, that the same faith I lived in, and declared unto You, I Die in My self; and find it safe for my Soul! and I am so far from renouncing my faith, that if posible I am more and more Confirmed in the Truth of them.

The Doctrines he mentioned was, Free Grace, free Justification, by the Imputed Righteousness of Christ, the Saints Perseverance Election, and Effectual Calling. And as to Lesser points, pray my Brethren to bear and forbear one with another in Love.

Jan: 22] He continued to prepare for his Departure, setting his House in Order that he might Die, and have nothing to do but to Die, to depart and to be with Jesus which is far better then to be here.

Jan 23] He had more rest this Night then either of the others, his Sleep seemed refreshing to him he spake but little, but seemed to be waiting for his Lords coming, having discharged his Mind before. When we offered him any thing he took it, and said the Lord give his blessing to this: he was a pattern of Patience through all his Sickness

Jan 24] The Night in which he Dyed, he was more then Common carried out in prayers, and preaching, he remained pretty Sensible to the last, but when he Scattered he seemed to think he was in the Pulpit preaching to his People, and more Directly to the Youth of his Congregation. Now (say he) mind what I am going to read to You, for they are very Awfull Words I do assure You! Rejoice O young man in thy Youth, and let thine heart cheer thee, but (mind this said he) know thou that for all these things, God will bring thee into Judgment God will Judge you according to your Works wether they have been good or evil

And again our Lord says, Because I called and ye refused, Mind this, this is I think as awful a word as any in the whole Book of God, Because I called and ye refused, I stretched out my hand, and no man regarded, but ye have set at nought all my Counsil and would none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your Calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh as Desolation and your destruction cometh as a Whirlwind, when Distress and Anguish cometh upon You. When he prayed correctly, that the Lord would bless what he had been delivering in his name, and that many might have cause to all Eternity to bless God for what they had been hearing. When he seemed to think he was concluding a Church meeting, and prayed particularly for all in Distress and Affliction, and for them that could not come to Gods house that he would visit them in Mercy

A little before he Dyed he prayed (tho' his breath shortned apace) Lord pardon the sins of this day, and give thine Angels charge concerning me this Night, to keep me, that when I have done my Generation work, I may fall asleep in Jesus and thou wilt say unto me Well done good & faithful Servant enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord I ask all for Jesus Christs Sake; to whom with the Father, and holy Spirit be Honour & Glory world without end Amen & Amen

After this he said, I am less than the least of all thy mercies, and tho' he slay me yet will I trust in him. Tho' Sin and Satan may molest yet God will bring me to my rest

After this he attempted to pray again, but Death came on so fast, he could not, Some little time after he said, Create in me a clean Heart and a right spirit, and in a little time after Dyed and seemed to have an easy passage out of this World into that which is to Come. Jan 24 1766

Mr Sanderson's funeral Sermon was preached by Mr Palmer of Hackney. it is printed

Feb: 27 A meetting for Prayer to seek the Lord for Councill & direction there engaged were Bro: Freelove, Willsher, Tansley, Friend Woodward & bro: J Negus. at this time there was a Collection for the benefit of the Poor belonging to the Church

March 13 A meetting for Prayer to Seek the Lord for Councell and Direction there Engaged our Bro Thos Leach. Kilpin. Basset. Rush. Custerton.

March 27 a Meeting for Prayer to Seek the Lord for Councill and Direction there engage Bro Odell. Rush Senr Wiles Friend Woodward and Bro Malden.

In this month Sister Winn Caddock exchanged worlds

April 10 a Meeting for Prayer To Seek the Lord for Councell and Direction there engage Bro Wm Negus Tansley & Negus Rush Senor and the Revd Mr Venor

May 1 a Meeting for Prayer To Seek the Lord for Councell and Direction there Engage Bro Huckle Mackeness Leath Custerton Freelove it was at this meeting agreed to apply to Pastors of other Churches to administer the Lords Supper to us while Destitute

May 15 a Meeting for Prayer To Seek the Lord for Councell and Direction there engage Bro and Willsher Basset Rush Senr Odell Friend Dutton Sister Win Caddock death was taken Notice of to day

29 May a Church-Meting 15 Bro: present Bro: Tansley, Castleman, Tho Rush, Malden J Negus were engaged in Prayer & it was agreed that at the next Church-Meeting should be presented a Call drawn up to be Signed by the Church to the Revd Mr Symonds with whose labours we have been favoured 10 Lord days to return to us as a Candidate for one year this is not to be expanding rule for a shorter time if may be better

Sister Martha Cowdal Fence Lane Mile End Old Town funeral Sept 25 by ye Lord to make it a Church

It was agreed that the Church ought to admit members the Institute of a Pastor

30 Sunday Was held a Church-meeting agreed to Notice before given for Signing the Call to Mr Symonds to come to us as a Candidate & for Prayer when 33 Brethren were present Bro: Freelove, Huckle, & Negus were engaged in prayer when after taking Notice of the footsteps of providence remarkable in the Sys

being brought among us

The reasons we had to assign for giving him a Call viz. His being of a sound judgment — of a very candid & peaceable disposition & one that has not only a real but a very great concern for y^e welfare of Sion

And also it appears that y^e Lord has been pleased to Bless his Labours to the awakening of several & we hope the conversion of some souls as also to the Satisfaction & profit of the Godly in general

The several testimonys that have been rec^d with regard to his character without being asked from Eminent Ministers & other Pious persons in Lond^n of Different denominations

Also some private observations made of his temper & Conduct among us,

The call to him to come among us as a Candidate was then read which was as follows —

(The Church of Christ which assembles together for Divine worship at Bedford

To the Rev^d Mr Symonds sendeth Greeting

Rev^d Sir, Dearly beloved in the Lord

We cannot but admire the kind interposition of Divine providence towards us evident in many remarkable steps which made way for y^e being brought among us & also our being favoured with a Specimen of y^r gifts & abilitys & desire to Bless y^e same we hope your Labours were of real use & service to our souls & y^e souls of many of the Congregation & we look upon it to be our duty to return you our most sincere & hearty thanks for all y^r kind Labours of love among us & may the Lord return them seven fold into y^r own bosom

And after Solemn prayer & Supplications to the God of all grace to guide & direct us attended with deliberate thought & frequent Consultation on this important affair repenting both in you & us we do as a Church of X assembled together we hope in the fear of God & with a single Eye to his honour & Glory your Usefulness & most eternal welfare with the greatest Sincerity, Cordiality & Unanimity present unto you this our Call & most fervent & earnest Invitation to come & preach y^e Gospel of X to us for one year as a Candidate the Doctrines which you have delivered among us evidently appearing to be entirely agreeable (in our Judgment) to the Gospell of X & to the Constitution of this Church (and very acceptable to the Congregation in general) with a full intention of calling you to the pastoral Office in due time if it shall appear to be the will of God

In this our request to you we humbly hope we may say we have nothing else in view but the glory of God the mutual Comfort of both Ministers & people the good of those now dear & precious & unto & to the advancement of the cause of X and interest of Redeemer among us

To the King of Saints so to the great head of the Church who has graciously promised ever to leave not forsake his Churches but to give them pastors after his own heart we desire to commit this important affair praying for & trusting that the Lord will guide both you & us in Judgment & teach us what is his mind & will here concerning us admiring that kind hand of providence that hath hitherto remarkably appeared for the good of this Church

We hope the Lord will incline your heart to come among us again as soon as your private concerns will permit of which we intreat you will advise us by a line by the post as soon as you can that we may know how long we shall want other supplys

We conclude with our fervent prayers to God for his presence with & Blessing upon your person & Services & Begg a continued share in y^r prayers for us & subscribe ourselves in the name of the Church Rev^d & Dear Sir

Read approved of and Signed at our Church meeting 10 June 1766 } Y^r sincere servants in the Bonds of the Gospell

Dan; Negus
Wm Willsher
Tho^s Palmer
Eben^r Casterson
Jon^a Negus
Stephen Odell } Deacons

Tho^s Brisk
Joseph Freelove
Wm Tansley
William Wiles
Robert Castleman
Richard Smith
Josh Wackerness
Jonathan Hopkins
William Smith
Tho^s Bygadsell
Tho^s Leach
John Whiteman
John Cooper
Wm Casterson

John Kilpin
Wm Walden
Wm Negus
Wm Maynard
James Whiteman
William Cox
Tho^s Woodward Jun^r
Henry Tapsey
William Brown
Edward Wells
Rob^t Huckle
John Basset
Sheam^r Jeffereys 33

Signed after the meeting by those y^t could not be there (under)

Tho^s Rush Jun^r
Wm Rayner
Samuel Larkin
Tho^s Thompson
George Man

Tho^s Wainwright
John Beck
Tho^s Charrip
John Larkin
Signed by 42 in all

The Call it self in the above Letter after being read was first universally approved of by the Brethren by lifting up of their hands & then signed at the close of the meeting by all present

It was at first proposed to have joyned the Subscribers with the Church in signing y^e Call but on consideration it appeared to be improper as might as a president be of bad consequence to them & other Churches by putting that power with which Christ has entrusted his Church into the hands of the many destitutes of Divine & Grace

26 June.f Was held a Church-Meeting for — Prayer when there was 15 Bre present & Bro Rush, Hilpin, Custerson & W Negus were engag.d

Have lost Sis.r Mary Barker since last fm her Funeral-Sermon preached by Jn.o Beddome

10 July A Church-Meeting Present Br.n J Rush W Wells, Tansley, Leach, Odell, - Negus, Willsher J Negus, Rush, Palmer, W Negus.

17 A Church-Meeting preparatory to the Lords Supper Present Br.n Willsher, Negus, J Negus, W Negus, W Wells, Palmer, Rush, J Larkin, Odell, Hilpin, Tansley, Jeffery.s

20 After the Lords Supper was administered by the Rev.d Mr Ashworth this after-noon being y.e first time it has been done since the Death of our dear pastor) The Rev.d Mr Symonds answer to the Churches Call was Read to the Church which is as Follows

To the Church of Christ which Assembles for Divine Worship at Bedford. — grace, mercy and peace from God our Father, & from Jesus X our Lord

Dearly beloved in the Lord

It has been with Considerable regret & uneasiness that I have so long delay.d giving an answer to the Letter you sent me bearing date 10.th Jun.e. I have been several times just going to put pen to paper, but have till now been deterred from so doing by a view of my own unfitness & inability for the ministerial Employment, & by a conciousness that I am not possess.d of that furniture, which is necessary to enable one to dispence the Gospel to you, or any other People.

I look upon your call to be unanimous; having consulted several upon this head, who uniformly declare it to be the Sole act of a Church to invite a minister, whether as a Candidate, or Pastor.

I have had daily recourse to a throne of grace for wisdom, guidance, & direction, how to act in this important solemn affair: have also at four different times engaged some of my Christian Friends & two Ministers to join together in beseeching y.e Lord to influence my mind & judgment, my inclination Conduct in a manner that will be most conducive to the glory of a dear Redeemer — to the real good of precious & immortal Souls — & that will be most Salutary to my own usefulness & comfort:

I must acknowledge that my Friends in general advise one to comply with your Invitation, not only those in London, but those in the Country, whom I have consulted on this occasion; such as the Rev.d Mess.rs Fawcett — Oxton & Wilde —

As therefore your desire that I should come & reach among you for the term of one year appears to be deliberate & unanimous, cordial & affectionate, I do now comply with it tho with much self-diffidence, fear, & trembling

And now my earnest prayer to God (in which you will undoubtedly concur with me) is that his holy Spirit may be pour.d down in a rich abundance both upon you & my self. May the Lord Jesus Christ himself, & God even our Father, who hath loved us, & given us everlasting consolation, and good hope thro' grace, comfort your hearts, & stablish you in every good word & work.

I hope to arrive at Bedford some time next week: — Next to your unanimity and affection as a Church, together with the advice of all my Friends — the motive that has principally weigh.d with me, & finally induced me to accept of your invitation, is the consideration that I am not about settling with you as a pastor, for which I am vastly unqualified; but only as a Candidate for a short period.

I hope my view is to the glory of God, & the interest & eternal welfare of my fellow Immortals: may these desirable ends be abundantly promoted through the influence of the great & chief Shepherd to whom be glory in the Churches world without end

I remain, with the greatest sincerity

your affectionate Friend & Servant
in the bonds of the gospel
Joshua Symonds

Birmingham
15 July 1766

31 July A Meeting of the Church & Congr.n for Prayer not only on our Domestick affairs but also on account of the weather which have been very wet to the Damage of the Hay & endangering of the grain Hom Br.n Fiselove, Malden, Custerson, Bakett, Hucklle & Mr Symonds were engaged & enlarged in Prayer

14 Aug.t was held a Meeting for Thanksgiving to God on account of y.e remarkable alteration in y.e weather ever since y.e last meeting for Prayer & praise on our church affairs Bro.n Leach, W Negus, Odell, Negus & Mr Symonds engag.d

28 Church Meeting to recommend both Minister & people to y.e Divine blessing Bro.n J Negus, Tansley Willsher & Mr Symonds engag.d

11 Sep.t Church Meeting prior to y.e Lords Supper appointed to be Administer.d next Lords Day by the Rev.d Mr Hextall of Northampton (Present Br.n Leach, Fr.n Burdett Woodward & Mr Symonds engaged) Negus, Willsher Palmer, J Negus, Odell, Larkin, Smith, W Sones J Rush, J Woodward) which was done accordingly. This week we lost our Bro.r Thos Pinchen [illegible] This week we have had a Sister baptized & Received into Communion & that we hope through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of heavn

25 Church-Meeting Br.n Negus in Willsher, Odell & one more were engaged This week we lost our Sister Mary Smith. Her funeral text was taken from Heb. 12, 28. & that we may serve God acceptably with reverence & godly fear

23 Oct.r Church-Meeting Br.n Negus in Hextall being here Preached & Concluded with prayer suitable to the occasion & administered the Lords Supper. The Lords day following. Since our last meeting Sister Mary Bayley has finished her life: her funeral-text was Heb. 12, 28. Br.n Beddome

20 Nov^r Church Meeting for Prayer — B^r Basett, Huckle, Tansley & M^r Symonds engaged — also present B^r Negus, Palmer, Custerson, I Negus Odell, Smith, W Smith, Cox, I Custerson

11 Dec^r Was appointed & observed by the Church & Congregation as a day of Fasting & Prayer for a blessing upon the Church & Congregation & the Ministry of the Word & to seek the Lord for direction that he would show us the right way & direct us in our choice of another Pastor whom he will make useful among us & that the many breaches made upon us might be repaired & [illegible] — B^r Willsher, Huckle, Basett, Malden, I Negus Custerson, Odell were engaged — Also present B^r Negus, Palmer, I Larkin, Smith, Breadsell, Rayner W Whiteman, Ja Whiteman, Leach, Cox, Brown, W Negus, Filpin, Wyles, Tansley, Wells, I Custerson Creefey, Hopkins, Jeffery, I Cooper, Castleman & is closed with a Collection for the Poor of the Ch & congr^n —

Dec^r 18. — Church Meeting previous to the Lords Supper appointed to be administered next Lords day by M^r Hexlall B^r Negus, Tansley, Rush & M^r Symonds engaged — also present Bro^r Willsher, Palmer, Custerson, Larkin, Huckle, Smith Whiteman, I Negus Odell, I Custerson, W Negus

It was at this Church Meeting appointed that we should next Church Meeting consider & determine whether we should or should not give M^r Symonds a Call to the Pastoral Office among us

5 Feb^y 1767 a Church Meeting was held for the purpose above mentioned at which (according to desire) Congregation also attended (the badness of the weather preventing its being held sooner) when Bro^r Custerson, Negus, Basett, Malden, & Odell engaged in prayer also present B^r Willsher — Palmer, I Negus, I Larkin, Treelove, Huckle, Cox, Smith, W Smith, Castleman, I Cooper, Charifs. Man, Breadsell, Brown, Jo Whiteman Filpin, W Negus, Tansley, I Custerson, Creefey, I Cooper —

When after I had spent time in prayer the Question was proposed whether we shall or shall not give the Rev^d M^r Symonds a Call to the Pastorall Office among us? which was declard in the affirmative by to the best of my knowledge all y^e Breth^n holding up their hands (as did most of the Congr^n tho' not desired nor expected) Then the question was put That if any here did not think M^r Symonds was called to the office by a proper Majority they would make known their thoughts? but no objection being made B^r Negus & Willsher were deputed by the Church to wait on M^r Symonds & acquaint him with their giving him a call to y^e Pastoral Office. (Since our last meeting Sister Elizb Hill (commenced (we trust) a member of the church triumphant)

5 March a Church Meeting Brethren engaged were Willsher, Huckle, Leach, Cooper & Castleman also 23 more present as under.

Upon further Consideration it was thought proper to confirm the above Call of the Rev^d M^r Symonds to the Pastoral Office at this Meeting by writing (Unanimously) Notice thereof being given Last Lords day which being drawn up & read to many of the Brethren before the meeting & by them approved of was now read to y^e Church & Signed by all present which the following is a Copy

The Church of Christ assembling together for Divine worship at Bedford: To the Rev^d M^r Symonds sendeth Greeting

Rev^d & Dearly Beloved Sir

We having now been favourd with your Labours for a very considerable time; & hoping that the Lord has blessed them to the good of our Souls, & the Souls of many of the congregation: some poor carnal sinners appearing to be under a real concern about their Souls; together with the doctrines you have delivered to us, appearing (to be agreeable) in our Judgment to the divine oracles, & to the constitution of this Church: we hope we can say, if we know our own hearts, that the Lord have given you a share in our warmest affections.

And therfore after mature consideration, serious deliberation, & we hope we may say sincere & fervent prayer to God; for counsell & direction: we do in the fear of God, & we hope with an eye to his honour & glory, the Interest of a blessed Redeemer; Your Comfort, usefulness, & happyness, & our own peace, comfort, & prosperity as a Church: & the good of the Congregation, (for whose welfare we hope we can truly say we are sincerly concernd) with the greatest sincerity, unanimity & cordiality, Give you a Call to the Pastoral care of us as a Church of Christ: to watch over, rule, govern, & feed us with the sincere food of the Divine word: & engage to submit ourselves to Your rule & government in the Lord; & to afford You all the help, and assistance, we are able, by our prayers, counsel, & advice; & by our readiness to put to our helping hand (according to our ability) to assist You in any good work for promoting the order & good — Discipline, purity, Love, harmony, peace, and — prosperity of the Church; & support of the Gospel among us: and hope we shall ever be willing, according to our power, chearfully to contribute proper supplys for Your comfortable accomodation as to this world.

And now Rev^d & Dear Sir, we commend You to God & the word of his grace, & the conduct of his spirit, to direct your Judgment, & determine your resolution, what answer to give to this our important & importunate request; resigning You, our selves, & it, to the Conduct of the supreme head of the Church, of whom it is said, the meek will he guide in judgment & [illegible] teach his way: following this our request to You, with our fervent prayers that the Lord will direct your way unto us if it may be his Blessed will & Conclude with Subscribing

83) Mr Symonds Acceptance thereof {1767} In writing.

ourselves

Revd Sir

5th March 1767 Yr. sincere Servants in our Common Lord

Danl Negus	Robt Castleman	John Larkin
Wm Willsher	Jonathan Hopkins	Joseph Freelove
Thos Palmer	Thos Woodward	Chas Thompson
Benj Custerson	Thos Breadsell	Tho Wainwright
Jona Negus	William Smith	Henry Caffy
Stephen Odell	Wm Rayner	George Man
Jno Wells	John Philpin	Jams Whiteman
Richard Smith	John Cooper	Wm Maynard
Wm Negus	William Wiles	John Peck
Wm Malden	Thos Rush	Thomas Charis
Samuel Larkin	Thos Leach	William Cox
Wm Tansley	Robert Huckle	Wm Brown
Saml Custerson	Shaxman Jeffreys	W Fillington
John Whiteman	John Bassett	The above signed after the meeting

It was expected Mr Hextall would have come to admonister the Lords Supper to us the next Lords day but he was prevented by Sickness

Since the last Church-meeting we have lost Mrs Elizabeth Negus her funeral-text by her own desire was Ps. 119, 120. my flesh trembleth for fear of thee & I am afraid of thy judgments

9 April Church-Meeting was carryd on by Bros Negus, Odell, Rush friend Dunton & Mr Symonds MTS

7 May Church-Meeting was carry on by Bros Wm Negus, Tansley, Philpin & Custerson MTS

27 Do Church-Meeting Extra when after Mr Palmer of Hackney had gone thro' the usual work of Singing Preaching & Prayer both the Church & all the Congregation present that usually attend stay'd & after J Negus had engaged in prayer & thanksgiving Mr Symonds answer to & acceptance of the call of the Church to the Pastoral Office was read after which the above Mr Palmer concluded the meeting. there were present Brs Negus, Willsher, Palmer, Custerson, Odell, J Larkin, Smith W Negus, W Smith, Tansley, Jeffreys Wiles Castleman, Philpin, Breadsell, S Custerson Wm Symonds Wells, Leach, Woodward, Cooper, Bassett,

The Revd Mr Symonds Letter to the Church was as follows

Gloster 10th May 1767

To the Church of Christ assembling for Divine worship at Bradford Grace, Mercy, & peace, from God our Father & from Jesus Christ our Lord

Dearly beloved in the Lord

Ever since Divine providence sent me among you I trust your Spiritual interest has lain very near my heart & I have endeavoured to serve the Lord with all humility of mind tho' this has been attended with much weakness & trembling & with many tears & temptations which befel me by the lying in wait of my grand enemy the Devil

1 Cor 2. 3 compard with Acts 20. 19, 20, 21

I hope I can solemly appeal to the great Shepherd & Bishop of Souls that I have wilfully kept nothing back nothing that was profitable unto you as a religious community but have endeavourd by divine help to shew & declare to you the way of Salvation & to teach & preach Jesus Christ both publicly & from house to house as far as enabled of the Lord. I trust it has been my sincere desire care & endeavour to testify & declare both to prosperous & prophane to the moral & to the profligate the Nature & necessity of repentance towards God & faith in our L J C. but alas! all this has been attended with manifold & glaring imperfections the sin of which I pray may be removed by the all atoning blood of the everlasting covenant & overlook'd by you my christian brethren

As to that momentious & important affair that has been for sometime in suspence between us, we have mutualy endeavourd both you as a church & I as an individual frequently & fervently to spread the case before the Lord in secret social & publick prayer. my own mind has been much upon the rack with reference hereunto. & God is witness to the heart-rending sighs & groans I have been conscious to on this occasion. At Length I determined to stand by the decision of my Friends & after having consulted some of them by Letter I went to London at an absolute uncertainty upon this head

I conversed upon this intresting subject with Dr Conder Messrs Winter, Webb, Older & Barber. likewise with John Winter Esqr Messrs Effington, Walls &c beside many more Ministers & other friends whose sentiments I have heretofore asked such as Messrs Fawcett, Wild, Newton, Grant, James, Hickman &c. These have all uniformly advised me to comply with your invitation & some of them in absolute terms

But I particularly laid open my principal & most cogent objections & discouragements to my work & excellent Pastor Mr Brewer who strenuously insists upon it that it is my indispensable duty to go on in the work of the Ministry notwithstanding all my fears & distresses & that my call is unexceptionably clear & evident to settle at Bedford

All to whom I read or shewd your written-Call highly approved of it & were much pleased with the manner in which it was drawn up. Mr Winter upon reading it would not suffer me to advance one objection more & since it was signed & all the brethren that were accessible declared it was his opinion that I should not hesitate upon a point one moments longer. & with him agree the rest of the Ministers present

Upon the whole then after having weighd all circumstances together such as the leadings of providence the steps of the Church & the advice of Friends. I do now apprehend it to be my Duty to the Call you have given me to go in & out before

according to the ability the Lord shall communicate & accordingly desire with all humility tenderness & affection tho' not without tears & trembling to devote myself to your service in the gospell of Jesus X as long as his providence shall call me & his grace assist me to discharge among you the duty's of y Sacred & arduous Office I have in view

But alas! alas! how absolutly insufficient, how utterly unable am I to execute so painful a task, how unworthy of the honour how unfit for the province you are about to assign me! my age my talents & abilitys my experience & furniture are all vastly inferior to the Character I am about to sustain yet I have sincerely & humbly made mention of these painful sensation's & have often & freely declar'd to you to my friends in general & to the King of Zion himself the gloomy & melancholy views in which these things appear to my drooping & dejected mind And yet all seem to concur in the general to pave my way to continue among you

And certainly the precious promises of the Gospell are very encouraging & reviving with regard to my present Situation. The following passages of Scripture (which I shall not Transcribe) have been a singular support to me Exo. 4. 10. 11. 12. Deut 35. 25. Josh 1. 9. Psa 27. 14. Isai 30. 18. Chr. 20. 27 to 31. especially 29 ver. Jer 1. 6, 7, 8, 17, 19 some of these last verses I apply to my spiritual & internal foes. Micah 7. 7. Zech 3. 1 – 4. Matth. 28. 20. 1 Corin 1. 27, 28, 29. Chap 2. 1 – 5. chap 15. 10 first Clause. 2 Cor. 2. 16 last Clause. chap 3. 5. Eph 6. 10. 2 Tim 2. 1. Rev 2. 10.

Animated by these consideration's I would gladly spend & be spent for the service of your souls & those of the whole congregation & society with chearfulness & aptitude would I lay out my time & strength in an humble dependance upon divine grace with a view to the redeemer's glory & your eternal advantage. being affectionatly desirous of your immortal intrest I trust I am willing to impart unto you not the gospell of God only but also my own Soul or life. because ye are dear unto me (1 Thes 2. 8.) especialy those to whom y Lord has in some measure blessed my poor attempts.

I should act an ungrateful part were I to neglect this opportunity of thanking you for all the marks of your Christian friendship & affection and particularly your earnest & fervent supplications for me in which I begg you to abound more & more.

Since I left you I have endeavoured to bear you all upon my heart before the throne considerd as a church & congregation you have been much upon my thoughts while traveling as well as at other times and my earnest prayer concerning you is that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the father of glory may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom & revelation in the knowledge of him that ye may see & taste that Jesus is precious & gracious that ye may be found in Christ receive him walk in him & obey him that ye may experience the power of his grace the sweetness of his love the efficacy of his blood & the prevalence of his Intercession that your hearts may be established with grace & in the truth as it is in Jesus my brethren these are shaking times but I hope you will be enabled to abide in Christ that when he shall appear it may be to your consolation and Salvation

It has often been pleasing to me to reflect upon the simplicity & Godly sincerity which prevails among you especialy when I observe the vanity levity & gayity which abounds among many professors: may you still be nonconformists to the world & seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God endeavour my dear friends to grow up into Christ in all things striving together for the faith & purity for the holiness & obediance for the worship & discipline recommended inculcated & enforced by the Gospell thus will you adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour and your conversation will be as becometh the gospell hereby you will follow the example of the primitive christians who continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship & in breaking of bread & in prayers.

O may the Lord Jesus Christ himself & God even our Father who hath loved us & given us everlasting consolation & good hope thro' grace comfort your hearts and stablish you in every good word & work may he fulfil in you all the good pleasure of his goodness & the work of faith with power that the name of our Lord Jesus X may be glorified in you & ye in him according to the grace of God & the Lord Jesus Christ & the Lord make you to increase & abound in love one towards another & towards all men that ye may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God

To conclude may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus that great shepherd of the sheep thro' the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight thro' Jesus Christ to whom be glory in the churches world without end Amen

I take my leave of you for the present by subscribing myself with the utmost sincerity & affection your real friend & servant in the gospell of Christ

Joshua Symonds

27 June. A Church-Meeting was carry'd on by Bro. Malden Willshea & Symonds. there was also present Br. Negus, Palmer, Cuttiason J. Negus, Odell, Smith, W Smith, J Cuttiason, Cartleman, Hanslep Jeffreys J Cooper, W Negus

After one Bro. had prayed the Dismission of our Rev. & Dear Minister Mr. Joshua Symonds to this Church was Read & his admition into this Church declard by the Brethren by lifting up their hands. when also Mr. King of Wellford was chosen by the Deacons to preach to the Church at the ordination of Mr Symonds which is fixed to Tuesday 4 of August. & the whole Church confirmd their choice by making no objection against it. Mr Symonds gave us a short discourse on his admition on Church fellowship from 1 John 1. 7 — We have fellowship one with another —

M. Symonds's Dismission to this Church was as follows

The Church of Christ at Stepney under the pastoral care of the Revd. M. Saml. Brewer to the Church of Christ at Bedford late under the pastoral care of the Revd. Mr Sanderson —

Dearly Beloved

Whereas our Dearly beloved Brother ye Revd. Mr Joshua Symonds, who has for some years been an honourable Member w.t us has by a special providence (we trust) after the loss of your late valuable pastor, been called to preach ye Gospell among you, & as after a trial of his gifts you have thought it your duty to call him to pastoral work among you, which after much thought, advice, and prayer he has at last chearfully accepted, we by this express our Joy that one so dear to us is now going to be pastor over you in the Lord. — But as in order to his being set apart to the pastoral office among you, tis his & your desire that he becomes a Member with you, we do hereby dismiss him to you, & send with it our earnest prayers for us that our covenant God may be daily bestowing on us covenant blessings in our Dearest Lord — We remain yours affectionately

We hope you will not cease to pray

Signd by the consent & in the Names of the church

by Saml. Brewer pastor
Jesse.h Mascall
John Adams } Deacons
Tho.s Andrews

June 4. 1767

30 July Church-Meeting was carried on by Br. J Negus. W Wells Odell & Symonds. also present Negus. Willshea Palmer, J Larkin, Tanley, W Negus. W Smith, Rush J Cooper, when the work of the day fixed for the Ordination of our Pastor was particularly recommended to the Divine direction & blessing

The following Ministers were fixed on by Mr. Symonds & the Deacons to be invited to assist in the Ordination viz. Mr James to give the Charge Mr. Thing to Preach to the Church and Mr. Beddham, Ashworth Hextall, Hickman, Boyce Greson, Addington & Lyants to engage in the other parts of the work of that day w.ch is fixed to be Augt. 5th the last meeting Sister Mascall & Sister Andrews were proposed & received Sermon preached by J. Symonds from Phil. 1. 27. 28. & administering the Lords Supper 1. 37.

30 July Church-Meeting was carryd on by Br. Larking, W Negus, Custerson, Negus and Symonds also prest. Willshea, J Negus, Odell, Wells W Wells, Smith, J Smith, Stallington, Breadsell, Leach when Mr. Things Letter to the Church if he would God willing comply with their request & Mr. Ashworths that he was obligd to be elsewhere that day were read to the Church

Tuesday the 4th August being the day appointed for the Ordination, of M. Mr. Symonds.

Mr. Boyce began with Prayer and Introduction we then sang then Mr. Hickman prayed more generally then Mr. Hextall asked the Question

Q. Do you my Friends, the Members of this Church have fixed your choise upon a Person to exercise the pastoral care among you, and have appointed this Day for solemnly and publickly setting him apart to that important office

Like the Ministers and Messengers of some neighbouring Churches, who are here present to behold your faith and order and to assist you in the transactions of this day; would desire one of your number, in the name of the rest, to give some account of the measures you have taken in order to the settlement you are now about to compleat

To which Brother Odell replied.

It having pleased God in his providence to remove by death our late worthy, and much esteemed Pastor — we called the church together for humiliation & prayer, desireing the Lord to direct us what steps to take in our present gloomy circumstances: — when it was unanimously agreed, that the Revd. Mr. Beddham be desired to write to Dr. Conder enquireing after the character & situation of Mr. Pennaer who had been recommended to our late Pastor as an Assistant: this motion therefore of ours proceeded from a sincere respect to the deceased. — Mr. Beddham complied with our request & received for answer, that the Dr. did not justly know wer Mr. Penner was, but mentioned Sheffield & Warwick as the most probable he also added that they had a preaching Pupil, whom he recommended as a supply, in case we could not have Mr. Pennaer. — As we were desirous to see and hear Mr. Penner. Mr. Beddham wrote to him at our request both at Warwick & Sheffield: but by reason of a deep snow that fell at that time he did not recieve our Letter, near so soon as we hope he would. — & in the mean time recieving a Letter from Mr. Penner Father, which gave us no incouragement to hope that his son would come for some time if at all — it was resolved to desire Mr. Beddham to write to the Dr. again to send Mr. Symonds for three Lords Days by way of supply, in which space of time his labours among us were generally acceptable, & caused us to invite him to return again to us We could not prevail with him to comply any further than this, that he would not engage to go to Poole a second time till he had heard from us: but desired us to write after Mr. Penner had preached among us, whom he imagined we should approve of. — Accordingly having heard Mr. Penner & freely conversed with him, he assured us "it would by no means be consistent with his weak state of health to preach to so large a Congregation": & we still thought it our duty to renew our application to Mr. S—s who in consequence thereof came to us for seven Lords days, during which time his ministry was owned among us, the result of which was the unanimous request of the Church that he should be invited to come among us as a Candidate. — Accordingly after Mr. S—s was gone from us, an Invitation was drawn up, and read before the Church when every Brother there present signed it, desiring it might be sent to him. — Mr. S—s having sent his Answer in the affirmative came here as a Candidate in July, 1766, & he

been with us in that capacity ever since.

After several Meetings for prayer and supplications for counsell & direction in February last the Church agreed to call M.r S. to the Pastoral Office, & in the beginning of March wrote a call, which all the Brethren, in number 41, unanimously signed. — And ever since we hope we have endeavoured to spread the case before the Lord both publicly as a Church & privately in our Closet; begging the Lord to do that for us as shall be most for his glory, the honour of a Redeemer, & our spiritual prosperity as a religious Community.

M.r S. being gone from us some weeks, in May last, he sent his answer to our call, signifying his acceptance thereof: — for which we desire to return thanks to the chief shepherd of the flock & have been ever since, we trust, following of the Lord with our prayers & supplications for his presence & blessing with & upon M.r S. — and his labours among us. M.r S. having been dismissed from a Church near London under the pastoral care of the Rev.d M.r Brewer, we proceeded to receive him into our fellowship & communion as a Church of Christ: & being earnestly desirous he should be set apart to the Pastoral office among us, we mutually appointed this day for that purpose; & requested the presence of the Rev.d Pastors of sister churches to be assisting in this solemn and important work, & to be witnesses of our faith & order, which we hope is agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.

2.y We are fully satisfied with the representation the Church have given of their proceedure in this solemn affair, especially as it is so exactly agreeable to the express advice of their late worthy Pastor, when just upon the point of leaving the world and as it becomes a faithful servant of Christ to act with peculiar integrity & caution in such a case as this let me beg of you, Brother S. to inform the assembly in what point of light you viewed this Churches call, & what were the motives that induced you to a compliance?

In answer to which M.r S. made the following Declaration.

"For several months before I entered upon the Ministry, it was my frequent & earnest request to God, who appointeth the bounds of our habitations that he would please to fix my station in what manner, in what place, & at what time would be most subservient to the Redeemers glory, & to my own usefulness & comfort; & that in the mean time I might be entirely divested of all anxiety & solicitude about each of these circumstances.

It gave me much concern when I was accidentally at Taunton to hear the melancholy news that the Rev.d M.r Sanderson the late excellent & venerable Pastor of this Church, was then just Dead.

It was afterwards a great surprize to me, that an application was made for my coming here as a supply.

Previous to this I had received an Invitation to go to the following places then destitute, viz, Braintree Fareham, Pool and Hull, as a temporary supply, to Lincoln & Birmingham.

Pool I promised to go to for a few weeks; but when this Church desired I might supply them two or three Sabbaths, my Friends advised me to come here first, & to Pool afterwards.

The first time of my being here viz, in March 1766, I was (quite contrary to my expectation) invited (as our Brother has observed) to return again; but could by no means promise till I had been at Pool, & M.r Ven.r at Bedford when I went from hence some of my Friends here wrote by me to my Tutor, & others at London in such terms, as made them apprehensive if I went to Pool & met with as pressing an Invitation to return there, as I had done to B.d, it would put me to an absolute nonplus how to act. — so that after much prayer & consultation, it was thought most advisable for me to omit my journey to Pool: but it was with some reluctance I complied with this proposal, as I was then fully persuaded in my own mind there was little or no prospect of my settling at Bedford.

Upon the 7.th of April I received a letter from hence importunately desiring me to come and spend 4 or 6 months here — agreeable to the advise of my London Friends, I came with a design to stay about six weeks, & still considered my self as a supply —

After that period was expired I returned to London — & in less than a fortnight went to visit my Relations in the Country. — While I was there I received a very affectionate, cordial & unanimous letter from this Church; wherein they warmly and earnestly pressed me to come and preach the gospel amongst them for the term of one Year, with a view to a future settlement upon mutual approbation. — My mind was much set against a compliance upon a variety of accounts, so that I was at a loss what answer to return: however I continued to spread the case before the Lord in prayer; & likewise advised with some Friends both at London, & in the Country

all of whom thought my way clear, except one Mr. Jenkins, whose ministry I sat under between 3 & 4 Years. — While I was deliberating upon this momentuous affair, I recieved another Letter from Bedford, importuning my return: to which after a few days I answer'd in the affirmative, and came here the latter end of July 1766

Ever since that time I have had many sinking fears & discouragements on account of my ignorance and barrenes, my darkness & blindness, my stupidity & unhelpfulness; I have been greatly dejected when I reflect upon my straightened contracted frame; & when I consider how little I am affected and improved with divine Truths. - Besides this I have often felt very pungent, deep & soul piercing sensations of sin & guilt, & carelessness: in consequence of which I have been much perplexed & embarrased about the state of my own soul: so that when I have experienced what hard and difficult conflicts - what violent & dangerous struggles what awfull anxiety - & alarming suspence the care of my own soul dos occasion - I have been filled with amazing & tremendous apprehensions at the prospect of undertaking in part the care & charge of a great number. — Thus hath my heart been almost broken, & my soul overwhelmed with inconceivable distress & agony, arriseing from a view of the insuperable difficulties that attend the ministerial service in general --- and then with regard to my engaging to serve this Society in particular, many objections have presented themselves to my mind, which I have till within about three months ago appeared to me insurmountable

Hence have I often cried out with Isaiah "woe is me for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips" & with Jer.h "Ah Lord God behold I cannot speak for I am a child" & again I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name" - but I was remarkably supported by that passage "speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward" even when they had to all appearance no visible way of escape. - & likewise Eph: 3. 8. "unto me who am less than all" to which I may add, "according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust. — who was before a blasphemer, a persecutor, & injurious. & the chief of sinners." — I great numbers of scriptures besides these have been very consoling & refreshing to my mind; which I need not now repeat. —

All along this interesting period, I corresponded with & consulted some very judicious Friends, who still looked upon my way to be clear. - above all I continued to present my ardent supplications to him of whom it is asserted, "the meek will he guide in judgment" & "he" again acknowledg him in all thy ways and he will" In the mean time I hope notwithstanding my many defects & infirmities) I have aimed with some degree of sincerity to promote by divine help the Redeemers honour, & the welfare of precious souls. — & if these important ends have been in any measure answered in the conversion & edification of any among us; - the intire glory & praise of all is due alone to the soverign & efficacious grace of God & not in the least to a mean, despicable and insignificant worm — at the same time I own this pleasing circumstance was in the event a considerable encouragment to me to abide at this place. — At length I determined I would stand by the decision of my friends most of whom I consulted either before or in the months of April & May last: about that time in particular I laid before them my difficulties & objections in the strongest light: but they uniformly & strenously advised me to continue in the Lords work, & to settle at B.d; in consequence of which I sent the church my answer: since the writing of which I had an opportunity of consulting the Rev.d M.r Potter who repeatedly insisted upon it it was my duty to comply with the Invitation

3] It is very evident, my Friends, that all Xian Churches have a right to chuse their own Ministers & it is equally certain, that this choise, if wise and prudent must be founded upon knowledge & judgment hence we infer the necessity that a Church of Christ should be well satisfied as to the principles & sentiments as well as the temper the conduct, & other qualifications of one that is to exercise the ministerial office among them.

And as the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel are the true foundation of evangelical hope & real practical godliness: it must be esteemed the indispensible duty of a Minister of Jesus Christ to hold fast the faithful word, & by a manifestation of the truth to commend himself to every mans conscience in the sight of God. Will you then Brother S.s give us a plain & summary account of your faith with regard to the grand article of divine revelation?

To which M.r S. gave that confession of faith which is Printed.

4] My Brethren of this Church, we have with pleasure observed the steps both you and our young friend have taken relative to the near & solemn relation you are mutually entering into with each other. — and have attended to the declaration he has made of his sentiments concerning the doctrines of the gospel. —

And now let me desire you publickly to renew your call of Joshua Symonds to fulfill the pastoral office among you, as the Lord shall enable him: — this you will signify by holding up your hands.

This was complied with.

5] It now remains that you M.r S. testify and recognise your acceptance of the Churches call to watch over them in the Lord. —

I have already hinted at the reasons that prevailed with me to yield to the churches pressing desire to take the oversight of them. — and then from a desire to obedience to the voice of Providence, — and in compliance with my own sense of duty. though not without much fear & trembling - I do publickly declare my acceptance of their Call to so important service. — And now in the presence of Angels & Men & particularly of the great God, who searcheth my heart, & tryeth my reins, & with whom is the residue of the Spirit — I do solemnly promise

engage — with a feeling sense of my own inability emptiness, & insufficiency; — yet in the name & fear of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great head of the church, & in an absolute dependance upon his all-sufficient grace — to endeavour to discharge the great trust this day committed to me: — & to execute all the parts of the pastoral office in this Church — according to the rules & directions laid down in the gospel — as far as the Lord shall afford me strength & wisdom, capacity & ability for this purpose — & as long as my poor endeavours are crowned & succeeded to their united establishment, prosperity, & comfort.

But conscious of my utter impotency & nothingness, my absolute unworthiness, & deplorable unfitness to engage in this arduous tremendous office I sincerely request an interest in the earnest & solemn supplications of my Rev.d Fathers & Brethren & others here present: — & particularly beg the importunate & unwearied prayers of this Church & congregation, that I may have a rich anointing & glorious supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ: — so that I may at last give up my account, not with grief but with joy as one that has obtained mercy to be faithful amen. even so Lord Jesus! Amen.

After this — Mr. Grant offered up the Ordination-Prayer: — then we sang. — Mr. James then gave the Charge. — Mr. Clarke prayed short. — Mr. Rees preached. — we then sang. — Mr. Gregson concluded with Prayer. — May the Lord of grace follow all with a Blessing: and as it was a pleasing comfortable day, render it a profitable one to us all amen.

31 August the first Church-Meeting after the Ordination in view of the Lords Supper when the Rev.d Mr. Brewer being here, he preached and filled up the whole time in a most agreeable manner.

1 October Church Meeting carried on by our Brothers Huckle, Custerson, Wm. Negus and D. Negus: Mr. S— not being at home the brethren retired in the Vestry and were acquainted that Two of the Deacons had waited upon our Sister Hensman, who for 12 months has absented from us; they reported that she declared, she was not satisfied with the Doctrines delivered to us by our Pastor, and that therefore she could not join us: but was determined to continue with the Church of England. this to be considered of by the brethren against the next Church-meeting. Since that meeting the Sister have made known.

29 Oct.r Church-Meeting when after Brother J. Negus had prayed Mary Careless who was propounded at the last Celebration of the Lords Supper was admitted a Member. She spoke her Experience then Brother Rush and Friend Dunton engaged: Sister Hensmans case was considered Brothers J. Negus & Custerson thinking it proper, she should be further admonished, were appointed to do it, and make report next Church-Meeting also concerning Sister Lewin who desired she might not be accepted a Member here,

Church-meeting 3.d Dec.r 1767.

This & the last Church-meeting introduced (in conformity to Mr. Sanderson's practice) by Brother Symonds's addressing those present upon the occasion of our meeting.

N.B. Sister Worral deceased since last Church-meeting.

Bro.rs Malden, Custerson, & Baskett & Symonds engaged in prayer.

A Letter from Mr.s Hensman was read — all the Brethren each & adjudged her rent off: however she is yet to be conversed with once more by that the desire of two Brethren J. Negus & Custerson may the L.d the King of Zion give her repentance to be renowned it's to the truth as it is in Jesus!

Mr.s Lewin of Ipswich, late a member of this Church, was unanimously declared to be rent off in virtue of the following message to the Church delivered in her name — Viz.t to Bro.r Symonds by her husband the Rev.d Mr. Lewin —

"Mr.s Lewin is no longer a Member of your "Church: she esteems it an honour to have no com= "munion with a Church built upon such un= "christian principles. — she was admitted into the "Church at Ipswich upon (says Mr. Lewin) my "recommendation; & neither desires nor will accept "a dismission from you".

At this meeting Mr.s Symonds the mother of Mr. Symonds the Pastor of this Church was received into communion, in consequence of dismission from the Church at the Weighhouse in London, & a recommendation from D.r Langford their Pastor, which is as follows.

To the church of Ch.t Bp.s under the pastoral care of the Rev.d Mr. Symonds.

This is to certify, that the late Miss Kingsley, now the wife of your worthy Pastor, has been some years (several) in full communion with the Church to which I minister, & whose grace has adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour by a christian= temper & practice. I therefore most affectionately commend her to fellowship with you in all the ordinances of Christ, praying that his gracious presence & blessing may be ever with you —

Mr. Langford — Pastor of the Church at the Weighhouse, Eastcheap, London. Nov.r 14 1767.

Church-Meeting: 1st Jan.y 1768.

This day Brothers [illegible] Vegus & Odell engaged in prayer — solemnly
[illegible] & Symonds
before the Lord for past mercies to us as a Church
as well as personally & individually considered —
earnestly begging for the continuance & increase
of them this year. Mr.s Hensmans case deferred till
next Church-Meeting. As it is New Years Day Bro.r
Symonds discoursed for about half an hour from
2 Cor. 8. 5. omitting the first clause. — that first
gave their own selves to the Lord & unto us (in the
will of God

A considerable number of the
Church & Congregation were present this day; but
more this day sennight when Bro.r Symonds preached
more largely from Isaiah 11. 10. (in which day (as to
time) there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand
for an Ensign of the people; to it shall the gentiles
seek, & his rest (ie, say some, his church) shall be
glorious.

Since our last Church-Meeting Bro.r Sam.l Larkin
fell asleep in Jesus — aged 77. Last Sabbath
a sermon was preached on this solemn occasion by
Brother Symonds. (his desire was
Text. Lam.n 3. 24. The Lord
is my portion saith my soul: therefore will I hope
in him.

Sister Worral (whose decease was taken notice of the last
Column) desired her funeral text may be Ps. 73. 26. My
my flesh & my heart faileth — —

Church-Meeting. 28th Jan.y 1768.

The following Brethren engaged. Bro.rs Neguses Sen.r
Rush, Cooper, Stillington, Symonds.
At the desire of 2 or 3 of the Deacons Mr.s Hensmans
case was deferred yet longer.

Church-Meeting, 3d March 1768.

This day were engaged in prayer our Brethren
Basset, Odell, Neguses Jun.r Symonds. —

Church-Meeting. 31st March 1768.

The Brethren who engaged in prayer this day were
as follows — Bro.r Ruckle, Custerson, Wilshere
Neguses Sen.r, Symonds.

General Church-Meeting. 28th April 1768.

Bro.r Vegus Sen.r began with prayer — then
Bro.r Symonds briefly represented the situation of
the Church, & it appeared that since the last
general Meeting, [illegible] (which
was May 30th 1765) we had lost by death 7 Brethren
& 15 Sisters, in all 22: 7 before the late Rev.d
Mr.r Sanderson's death, 15 since. (Sister Simpson died
since the last
Church-Meeting.
besides this 2 have rent themselves off, viz.
Mr.s Hensman & Mr.s Lewin her daughter. This
last was declared to be so at a Church-Meeting
held Dec.r 3. 1767. see preceding page. as to the
former, Mr.s Hensman, her case was attended
to this day. Bro.r Vegus Jun.r gave a full &
particular account of all the steps that had
been taken by the Church relative to this sad
affair, & then by the suffrage of the Brethren
(signified by lifting up their hands) it was
agreed, That she could no longer be esteemed a
member with us, having withdrawn from us,
& joined the communion of the Church of
England from which we dissent.

Here follows Mr.s Hensman's own account
of her case in a Letter which was read at
our Church-Meeting Dec.r 3. 1767. but it
was not tho.t proper to insert it at that time
in this Book but to wait to see the issue
of this affair.

"To the Church at Bedford."

"Gentlemen",

"You must act towards
"me as you think proper, but I think you cannot
"in justice declare me to be rent off, nor will
"I accept of a dismission. if you are pleased
"to carry the affair to the extremity of an
"excommunication, it will sit very easy
"upon my mind: as I can appeal to the
"Divine Being & to my own conscience,
"that I have acted upon the most mature
"deliberation, & a conscientious principle.

"The view I have of things is as
"follows — That a Minister has been
"imposed upon me, who has by his conduct

190 Mrs Hensman's case continued.

"that he is a hot-headed, bigotted, weak man, & such a man by no means think him a proper teacher of others & therefore cannot attend his ministry with any satisfaction.

"I shall only add, that it will be worth your while "Gentlemen" well to consider what you are about as "if you do bring matters to an extremity, it will be "looked upon by all candid christians as well as ministers "that it will be exercising upon me the worst kind of "tyranny, namely first to impose upon me a minister "that I cannot in conscience hear, & then excluse me "for non-attendance."

"I am Brethren your well wishers in the Lord

" Rachel Hensman.

From our conversation with Mrs Hensman at present & from other circumstances particularly her own declarations, it is abundantly evident that she does by no means prefer the forms & ceremonies of the established Church & the customs that prevail amongst Dissenters — but that her only reason for the exchange she has made is her utter dislike to the Doctrines & Sentiments entertained & taught by this Church & its unworthy Pastor. hence the conviction she has herself made & expressed to us while she was here, of our present opinions propagated

The first of all left us (for a mistake not) 14th Sept. 1766 about a year before I was ordained. she was twice admonished last Sept. vide page 188.

May the Lord hear the prayers offered up this day for the sanctification of this & other mournful events made mention of this day.

Amidst all these discouragements it pleased that a remarkable union & harmony subsist among us & that several in the Congregation seem suitable helpers to be received among us, it was therefore prayed that such might be inclined & persuaded to come & give up their names to the Church & that we might be directed concerning them.

The 2 following persons were proposed for communion, viz Thos Brabrook & Sarah Hallmarke: and Bs Questerson & Bs Hudson were deputed to converse with the former & enquire into his character. — Bs Regnier & Thos were appointed to the same service with regard to the latter. May the great Head of the Church & Family bless our humble endeavours as shall be seen.

Sister Grove's case.

1768 Bro Hudson reports Sr Symonds also engages in prayer.

At the close of this meeting the Brethren retired into the Vestry to converse (by her own desire) with our Sister Ann Grove who was received into this Church 2d May 1754. & only sat down at the Lord's Table the first sabbath after her admission. her case is mentioned above Page 166 & 168 She has ever since she commenced a member with us been exercised with awful deadness & deep distress, all which arises from (we believe) a mistaken apprehension that she contracts horrid guilt by joining herself to this Church. this erroneous & melancholy view of things has broke her heart & so long preyed upon her spirits that she is almost unfit for the duties & her station as a member. however in the course of our conversation with her it was easy to see (& true many tokens for good & humanly speaking) full evidence that the root of the matter is in her & therefore we hope & trust the Lord has yet mercy in store for her.

She came on purpose this day to accuse & condemn herself before the Brethren in general, as she has frequently done before individuals: but we were fully satisfied that her enemy prevails from the influence of Satan who is the accuser of the brethren; may the Lord rebuke this adversary, & shortly bruise Satan under the feet of this woman whom he hath bound these 18 years. The walk & conduct of this person is according to her account agreeable to the gospel, & her earnest longing desire is for a richer experience of (Psalm) blessings & saving communion: may the Lord grant her the desire of her heart & the request of her lips.

Church-Meeting. June 2d 1768.

Att this opportunity our Brethren Huckle, Tansley & Symonds prayed. Sarah Malthouse was received into the Church by a written Experience & Thos Brabrook by an account which he gave by word of mouth of the Lord's dealings with him; which account was very regular, full & satisfactory; an abstract of which Bro Symonds noted down at the time of it's being given in, & afterwards transcribed, & put among the other written Experiences: This he intends to make a general practice of when an experience is given in merely by word of mouth.

‡

Since our last Church-Meeting our Sister Elizth Benson departed this life, according to her desire. Bro Symonds preached the following Sabbath from those words in Isaiah 41. 10. Fear not &c.

July 8. 1768.

This being Church-Meeting Day, the following persons engaged in prayer. Bro Vegus sen, Bro Malden, Friend Dunton, & Bro Symonds.

August 3. 1768.

This day Mr Robinson preached, Mr Field of Halstead also prayed & it being the beginning of harvest there was no Church-Meeting.

Sept. 1. 1768.

At our Church-Meeting this day the following persons engaged in prayer Bro Rush, Odell, Vegus jun, & Symonds.

Church-Meeting. 29th Sept. 1768.

Engaged in prayer this day — Bro Wilsher, Custerson, Malden, Huckle.

At this meeting Elizth Vegus (whose name will probably very soon be Elizth Cooper) was proposed for church-fellowship. our Brethren Wilsher, & Vegus Sen were appointed to converse with her, & enquire into her char.

Church-Meeting. 20th Oct. 1768.

At this opportunity our Brethren, Bastt Tansley, & Vegus sen & Symonds prayed.

At this time Elizth Vegus was received into fellowship with this Church upon her giving a verbal account of the Lord's dealings with her soul. {see opposite Lines of ‡ last Column}

Likewise Wm Wilshire was proposed for communion with us, & Bro Custerson & Bro Odell were desired to discourse with him about his experience, & enquire into his walk against the next Church-Meeting.

A Letter was then read from the church at Malden, desiring our concurrence & assistance by some Messengers at the settlement of Bro Coles at their Pastor to which we agreed. † next week

It was also debated whether it is proper or not to admit as an occasional Member with us Mrs Mary Hillman at present a Member with Mr Townsends at Newington but as we cannot yet find by conversation with her that she has had a real experience of a work of grace upon her heart (though moral & decent in her behaviour) it was tho most advisable to defer a compliance with her request till we can gain further satisfaction concerning her upon these mentioned points.

Church-Meeting. 18th Nov. 1768.

(One of our Sisters Hannah Sankin) having had great satisfaction conversed with the person above-mentioned (viz Mrs Mary Hillman) — it was this day unanimously agreed to admit her as a occasional Communicant. see parallel Instances page 100 & 101.

Bro Wm Wilsher was received into fellowship with us — & Mary Stevens was proposed, Bro Vegus sen & Bro Rus. were appointed to converse with her.

Bro Vegus jun, Odell, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

A Record of the Acts of the Church

1768 & 1769.

Account of the awful case of Bro^r Cressy

Church-Meeting 16 January 1768.

Bro^r Rush, Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Mary Stevens, who was proposed last Meeting this day declared her experience extemporé, (as did Bro^r Wilson last Meeting) & was received into fellowship with us.

Also Thomas Fisher was taken into communion with this Church, being dismissed in a very honourable Epistle from the Church at Walden under the pastoral care of Bro^r Wm Coles. & further recommended by Bro^r Kilpin & Bro^r Symonds, who are particularly acquainted with him.

After the public Meeting the Brethren assembled in the Vestry to talk over the case of Bro^r Cressy, who is accused of repeatedly attempting indecent liberties with persons of his own sex. he does not deny the charge, yet discovers little or no regret, but talks much of his peace & comfort. several of our Brethren who have at one time or other been appointed to converse with him, find him in the situation above-mentioned. Wherefore some thought as the crime is so heinous & abominable, he should be cut off immediately; others are for waiting a little longer. so it was concluded he should come before the Brethren next Meeting, & if satisfaction is not then given afterwards to proceed to excommunication. & even if some satisfaction is obtained of humiliation & contrition, yet this is not to be esteemed sufficient to his being immediately readmitted. he has been suspended ever since the first Church-Meeting after Bro^r Symonds's Ordination.

It should have been observed before that this day Mr^s Martha Palmer, Wife of our Bro^r Palmer was propounded. Bro^r Wilson & Bro^r Odell were desired to converse w^th her. the following Brethren were also appointed to see & converse with her Sister Mrs Grover, who is still kept from the Lord's Table by the Brethren upon account of her absenting herself from the Church. Bro^r Kilpin Symonds

Church-Meeting 19 January 1769.

Brethren engaged this day were Bro^r Rushe, Stallington, & Symonds.

Mr^s Palmer was received into fellowship w^th us, her experience read by Bro^r Symonds.

Mr^s Mary Hayes, long a transient member here, was this day by her own desire received into full communion, dismissed from the Church at Keysoe.

As to Bro^r Cressy's membership with us, it was this day determined by the Brethren to exclude him the next Church-Meeting, unless he discovers tokens of real humiliation: Bro^r Palmer & Bro^r Custerson were appointed to acquaint him thereof.

Church-Meeting. 2 March. 1769.

Forasmuch as Henry Cressy wrote a Letter a few days ago to our Brother Symonds which seemed to express a sense of, & remorse for his former conduct, it was thought most advisable by some of the Brethren to defer the sentence of Excommunication till the next Meeting, & in the mean time enquire into the sincerity of his pretensions. But the Majority supposing this delay unnecessary & improper, he was cast out from communion with this Church. Bro^r Custerson, Castleman, Leach, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

After this it was desired the Brethren would retire into the Vestry, where we talked over the case of Sister Mrs Palmer, who has been guilty a great number of times of indecent behaviour at the House of God; & several other things unbecoming her profession. The following

Brethren were deputed to go to her upon this occasion: viz Brother Custerson, Leach, Odell, & Kilgin.

S.S. March 14. These Brethren have been with Ann Palmer, & as she made an English acknowledgment of her conduct being wrong, & a special promise of reformation in this particular for time to come; — It is not judged expedient to proceed any further

Church-Meeting 30 March. 1769.

This day the following Brethren engaged in prayer. Brō. Regus Junr. Odell, Baspet, Symonds.

Church-Meeting. 27 April. 1769.

Yesterday Sister Green of Hawnes fell asleep in Jesus Brō Wyles, Cooper, Regus Senr & Wilshere were engaged in prayer this day.

Church-Meeting. 1 June. 1769.

Brethren engaged in prayer at this Meeting were Brō Odell, Regus Junr, Rush, Wilshere Brō Symonds who is upon a journey.

Church-Meeting. 29 June. 1769.

The following Brethren prayed: viz Brōr Walden, Regus Senr, Leach, Revd Wells, Symonds.

Mary Stewardson was proposed to the fellowship of this Church: & our Brō Regus Senr & Brō Kilgin were appointed to see her, converse with her, & make enquiry into her character, according to our custom for above a year past we have lately lost our Sister King.

Church-Meeting. 3 Augt. 1769.

Brethren that engaged this day were Brō Odell, Baspet, & Symonds. Molly Stewardson was received among us, her account of the Lords dealings w[ith] her soul was read by Brō Symonds

Church-Meeting. 1 Sept. 1769.

Brō Custerson, Regus Senr & Junr & Symonds called on the Exercise of Prayer at this time

Thursday. 28 Sept. 1769.

There would in course have been a Church-Meeting this day, but it was omitted because the Meetinghouse is repairing: towards the expence of which Mr Whitehead Esqr our member of Parl. subscribed £100 — John Howard Esq; £50 — & amongst the members of the Church & Congregation upwards of £100 — The good Lord renew & revive all our souls, that we may be strengthened & edified as his spiritual building. —

Brō our Sister Grace Pain entered we trust into the joy of her Lord since our last Church-Meeting aged 80.

Thursday. 9 Novr. 1769. Church-Meeting.

Brōr Cooper, Kilgin, Hunkle, Wyles Hillington, & Symonds engaged in prayer this day.

Since our last Church-Meeting our Brō Mr Cox exchanged worlds. the Lord be merciful & comfort his aged 53.

Thursday. 7 Decr. 1769. Church-Meeting.

The following Brethren engaged this day: Jno Dunton, Brōr Walden, Baspet, Brabant & Symonds. Mary Routen was propounded. Brōr Odell & Brōr Castleman appointed to converse with her

Thursday. 4th Jan. 1770.

Church-Meeting omitted this Day on account of a Sermon preached by Revd Mr Davis. Since our last Meeting Brōr Fisher fell asleep in Jesus aged 74.

Church-Meeting. 1 Feb. 1770. Thursday

Brethren engaged in prayer this season were Brōr Tansley, Castleman, Freelove, & Symonds. —

Mary Routen intended & was expected to give an account this day of the Lords dealings with her soul, but was unhappily forbidden by her haste on account of business. —

Our Sister Mary Shadwick exchanged worlds since our last Meeting, & is we trust commenced a Member of the church triumphant above

Acts & Monuments of the Church 1770.

Thursday. 1 March. 1770. Church-Meeting.

Bro our Sister Mary Routon was rec into communion this day, & her Account very large & full — only Bro Rush & Symonds engaged in prayer. Sarah Barnett was propounded: Bro Palmer & Rush were desired to converse with her &c. —

Thursday. 29 March. 1770.

Church-Meeting.

Engaged in solemn & suitable supplications this day Bro Regus, Odell, [illegible] Bro Symonds concluded as usual. Sarah Barnett rec into fellowship with us: her Account read by Bro Symonds.

Church-meeting. 3 May. 1770. Thursday.

Bro Custerson, Odell, Regus, Wigan, Wesleyan, & Symonds were the mouth of the Church this day. Sister Smith was propounded, Bro Palmer & Regus were desired to converse with her. Since our last Church-meeting our Sister Franklin & Sister Cochan, the former was cast off — the latter only 83. (Wardle)

Church-Meeting. 31 May. 1770. ——

A general Meeting.

Since our last Church-meeting, viz the Sabbath following this Letter was sent to our Brother Wm Maynard, penned by our Bro Regus. Dated May 6. 1770.

Dear Brother

Having been informed to our great grief & trouble, that you have been guilty of fornication, & on enquiry there appears full proof of it; these are to require you to absent yourself (not from the public worship of God with us, no God forbid you should do that, but) from communion with the Church in the ordinance of the Lord's supper to-morrow, & for the future till you can clear yourself of the charge laid against you or testify a repentance & reformation to the satisfaction

Case of Bro Wm Maynard.

Dear Brother, consider with yourself (as we hope you are conscious of the truth of y charge) how great is your guilt simply considered, & how great the aggravation on account of y being a Church-Member, how great the reproach brought upon us, & above all what occasion is hereby given to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme: endeavour not to desist in any respect & beg of the Lord to give you repentance for that & every other sin & true faith in the blood of Christ for the pardon of all sin. Despair not of an interest in the mercy of God; & remember that good word, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin: but remember also there must be an application of it to the soul by faith in order to the receiving any benefit therefrom. Beware of the temptations of Satan, consider by what means he hath hitherto got an advantage over you, & be upon your guard. It is probable he blinds your eyes so that you could not see the evil of what you was tempted to before you had committed it: & now if he cannot keep you in a state of security (which above all things dread & pray against) he will very likely labour to drive you to despair; but watch & pray against his wiles & that you may not be ignorant of his devices. Seeing as you have now entered into a new relation, beware that your affections are not alienated from your bosom-companion, who as she is your nearest relative, ought of all earthly objects to have the superior place in your affections & esteem. We most earnestly solicit your attendance at our next Church-meeting, & hope you will favour one or other of us with your company before that time: & hope we shall endeavour earnestly to recommend you to the mercy of God, & are your brethren in gospel bonds

Symonds, Odell, Regus, Tho Palmer, Custerson, Franklin, Odell

General Church-Meeting 1770.

[redacted]

Bro[r] Hubble, Wilcher jun[r] & Symonds were this day the mouth of the Church.

Bro[r] Maynard did not appear, though desired so to do, & he has sent a message that he will not even meet the Brethren appointed to converse with him in private. he was this day suspended from the Ordinance.

our Sister Eliz[a] Smith was cut off among us. It appeared that since the last General Church-Meeting (which was 28[th] April 1768.) 2 Brethren were dead, & 7 Sisters gone out off, viz Henry Cutsey ——— & added to the Church 3 Brethren & 9 Sisters. 2 of these by dismission, the rest rec[d] out of the Congregation.

It was also taken notice that 3 Sisters voluntarily absent themselves from the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, viz Ellen Grace (see P 190) & Eliz[h] Cheelove & Mary Cheelove upon a frivolous occasion, not worthy to be here inserted therefore 2 Brethren were appointed to converse with these & to exhort them to join with the Church as usual.

Church-Meeting. 28 June. 1770

Brethren engaged were Bro[r] Wm Segus, Stillingfleet, Bradbrook, Bagnell & Symonds. Edmund Pettit propounded this day. our Sisters Mary & Eliz[a] Cheelove persist in their determination to absent themselves from the Ordinance of the Lord's supper, the Church wait a little longer.

as to Bro[r] Maynard who still declines an Interview with us, it was this day concluded to send to him once more to attend the Brethren deputed to talk with him next Tuesday. viz Bro[r] Palmer, Cruttenden, Bell, Leach

Continuation of Brother Maynard's case.

Church-Meeting 2 Aug[t] 1770.

Brother Tansley & Symonds & Friend Dunton engaged in prayer this day. Bro[r] Edmund Pettit was received into the Church after having declared what the Lord had done for his soul & an agreeable account of him by those who had been appointed to converse with him, viz Bro[r] Segus sen[r] & Bro[r] Odell.

Bro[r] Maynard met with the 4 Brethren (mentioned the last Column) at the time appointed: he discovered much sorrow, yet his conversation was satisfactory only to one of the Brethren. he still refuses to come before the church, therefore it was determined this day to proceed against him next Church-Meeting, unless he then complies in this respect; of which Bro[r] Symonds is to give him previous notice.

The Church was informed this day that our Sister Eliz[h] Cheelove intends to sit down with us as usual, when her weak state of health will permit.

Church-Meeting 30[th] August. 1770.

In compliance with the desire of the Church at our last Meeting, the unworthy serv[t] of Christ and this Church wrote to our Brother Maynard the following Letter, dated 28[th] Inst[t]

To Bro[r] Maynard

Your late conduct has occasioned much sorrow & concern to the Church, & brought a sad reproach & scandal upon your character & profession: therefore several Brethren thought it necessary for the honour of God & the Church, that you should be excluded from fellowship with us immediately upon the affair being reported to them. But others of us were for waiting longer according to the usual custom of this Church to see whether you would discover before them real, deep, & genuine contrition for your sinful backsliding. therefore we have repeatedly desired you to attend our Church-Meeting & there give proof of sound repentance & humiliation; this you have hitherto refused or neglected: therefore I am authorized by the Church to assure you that if you do not comply with our desire next Thursday we shall be obliged to proceed against you according to the ancient method of this & other gospel-churches. As to the Brethren that conversed with you, all except one are of opinion that you did not manifest a repentance after a godly sort, & that it was rather extorted from you because the dreadful abominable scene is discovered.

A Record of the Acts of the Church. 1770

Bro^r Maynard's case further considered.

As for my own part, as you would never condiscend to converse with me on this melancholy occasion, (though frequently requested) all I could do (was to enquire of others concerning your present temper & behaviour: & several do affirm that both before & since your mournful fall, you discover a levity of spirit quite inconsistent with your general profession, & very unsuitable to your present situation under the censure of the Church, & suspended from communion with us at the Lord's Table.

However the Lord is the searcher of all hearts, & is perfectly acquainted with your present situation; & therefore we are unwilling & reluctant to reject you till we have heard further from you. Therefore I beseech & intreat you, with the most sincere & faithful affection & tenderness & with tears in my eyes, that you will come & humble yourself before the Lord & before the Church. May God in mercy grant you sincere & gospel repentance (but there must also be a personal & public acknowledgement (of your own act & deed) both of your offence & remorse) may the Lord himself bring it about, & help the Church in forming a just opinion & conclusion about the whole matter.

And now, my dear (Friend I leave you with the Lord begging him to enable you to remember with bitterness & humiliation of soul from whence you are fallen — to consider the cause of your heart-sinking miscarriage which I apprehend was levity & security, owing to your keeping bad company. & that you may again be restored & healed through an application of the blood of sprinkling to your defiled soul — & that you may give satisfactory evidence of the same by a very strict, circumspect, humble & spiritual walk in all holy conversation & godliness, amen & amen.

I conclude with wishing you the best of spiritual blessings, such as pardon, peace & purity; & remain with great sincerity, your faithful & compassionate Friend & Brother in the gospel of Christ. J. Symonds

To this Letter our offending Brother returned an answer containing some excuses for not attending y^e Church-Meeting but nothing evidential of a penitent humbled, & contrite heart: though he says he has much sorrow, & has sincerely repented of his sin, & desires to do so as long as he lives" (which the y^e only expression of that kind in his Letter) yet gives no proofs. — however most of the Brethren present thought good to wait a little longer, viz till next Church-Meeting, & Bro^r Symonds was desired in the mean time to converse with him, & assure him that they will then farely proceed against him, unless he personally appears &c &c.

Lot this Morning after the Church-Lord talked over this melancholy affair, & heard the Letter wrote to Bro^r Maynard by our Bro^r & Deacons, (p 194) & they and Bro^r Symonds to go back with his answer — after this, the 3 following young persons were proposed to the communion of this Church, viz Hannah Salisbury, Catharine Brownsell, & Mary Goodyer. 2 Brethren were deputed to converse with each of them since, viz Bro^r Deacons Sen^r Leach, Palmer, Odell, Philpin, & Deacons Jun^r.

The following Brethren were this day the mouth of the Church: viz Bro^r Leach, D^r Deacons, Custerson, Philpin, Symonds.

Thursday 4^th Oct^r 1770. Church-Meeting.

Bro^r Odell began, & Bro^r Symonds concluded with prayer. — The 3 Sisters Salisbury, Goodyer, & Brownsell were rec^d into the Church: Each spoke their Experience, but not loud enough to be heard, & therefore (now) read afterwards.

Since our last Church-Meeting Sis^r Cox & Elston joined (we hope) the Church triumphant. last 7^th. when Bro^r Symonds conversed with Bro^r Maynard, he frankly owned his fault & cried, yet did not appear suitably humbled & broken, & was himself sensible of it, freely acknowledged his own stupidity & want of feeling; & said he did not see what the Church could do more than otherwise than excluding him: so that, as he discovered no sense of things, though far from satisfactory we delayed proceeding against him till next meeting, to see if by the affair would work in the mean time.

Church-Meeting.

Thursday 1^st Nov^r 1770.

Brethren engaged in prayer this day were Bro^r Bramboh, Cooper, Philpin, Tapsley, & Deacons Sen^r. Bro^r Symonds was absent by reason of pain & illness, so Bro^r Maynard's case was deferred till another opportunity.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 29th Nov.r 1770.

This day Bro.r Shayward was cut off by the unanimous suffrage of the Brethren

Rev.d Mr.r Wills formerly Pastor of the Church at Everal, but now laid aside from the ministry by reason of old age, was by his desire admitted to occasional Communion with this Church. His daughter Eliz.th Pidden, who has for several years sat down with us as a transient member was according to her own request received into full Communion; the Church at Everal (to which she belonged) being now dissolved & broken up.

Bro.r Rush, Walden, D.r Degus & Symonds were this day the mouth of the Church in prayer.

Since our last Church-Meeting we have lost our Sister Shaman, aged full 90 years, & has been above 58 years an honourable member of this Church.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 27th Dec.r 1770.

Brethren engaged this day in prayer were Bro.r Castleman, Wilsher, Basset, & Fr.d Dunton. Bro.r Symonds concluded as usual.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 24th Jan.y 1771. Held in the Vestry.

Following Brethren were engaged — viz.r Bro.s D.r Degus, Wilson, Millington, Wyles & Symonds.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 28th Feb.y 1771.

Bro.r Castleson, D.r Degus, Kilpin, Rush, and Fr.d Dunton were the mouth of the Church. Bro.r Symonds was absent by reason of a Call. Postscript. The following sabbath Bro.r Carver preached, & Bro.r Symonds administered the Lord's Supper, at which Ordinance Eliz.th Flanders was proposed to the fellowship of the Church, & Bro.rs Kilpin & Wyles were appointed to enquire into her experience & walk.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 4th April. 1771.

Since our last of this kind our Bro.r Wilsher finished his course, & entered we trust into his master's joy. aged 72.

This day Eliz.th Flanders was rec.d among us: Bro.rs Kilpin & Wyles were appointed to converse with her.

Brethren engaged this day were Bro.rs Degus, Bradbrook, Symonds.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 30th May. 1771.

The last time she broke bread at the Lord's Table Eliz.th Wilson was propounded: Bro.rs Palmer & Rush appointed to converse with her. no Church-meeting a month ago because Bro.r Symonds was upon a long journey.

Brethren engaged this day were Bro.s Abell, Basset, Wilsher & Degus, & Fr.d Dunton. Bro.r Symonds absent.

Since our last Church-meeting Sister Hurble Sen.r fell asleep in Jesus. aged 72.

Church-Meeting.

Thursday. 4th July. 1771.

Only 2 Brethren engaged in prayer this time, Bro.r Rush & Symonds. Eliz.th Wilson gave an account of the Lord's dealings with her soul, & was admitted a member.

Since our last Church-meeting it has pleased God to remove our Bro.r Castleson, a valuable member, & an useful Officer in this Church. aged 56.

General Church-Meeting.

Thursday 1st Aug.t 1771.

At this Church-meeting only Bro.rs D.r Degus & Symonds engaged in prayer. — It appears that since our last Gen.l meeting (viz 31 May. 1770.) 3 Sisters were dead, & 2 Brethren — both of them Officers in the Church, viz. Bro.r Wilsher & Bro.r Castleson: the latter was removed from us in the very midst of his usefulness & Christian consolation, & known & deplored dispensation. one Bro.r has been cut off. see preceding Column.

One Bro.r only rec.d into the Church viz. Bro.r Wilson. Six Sisters. besides whom Sister Pidden heretofore an occasional member, now rec.d into full communion. & her Brother the Rev.d Mr.r Wills admitted to transient fellowship by reason of the infirmities of old age he is laid aside from the ministry: & the Church at Everal of which he was Pastor broken up. Bro.r Symonds read to the Church this day in this Book from page 177 to 188.

{1771} 6 Deacons chosen.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 29th Augt. 1771.

Brethren This Day engaged in Prayer were Bro Castleman, Rush, Kinsley, Symonds

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 3 October. 1771.

The following Brethren were this day the month of the Church in prayer. Bro Basset, Wilcher, Kilpin, & Symonds. Wm John Fuller of Newport was received among us by a dismission from the Church at Rhode Island under the pastoral care of Bro Deacon Dolly Thomson & Hannah Rowins were proposed to the Church, Bro Rush & Kilpin appointed to converse with the former, & Bro Bowen & Wells with the latter.

Since our last Church-Meeting Miss Ann Sherman a member of this Society, entered upon her awful Eternity. And two days after that meeting our Bro John Larkin was received we hope into the joy of his Lord, after having been a member of this Church more than 51 Years. & aged full 80.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 14 Novr 1771.

Bros Dr Rogers Walden, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sister Thomson & Rowins were admitted to Communion with the Church. Cath. Sayr. & Sarah Denton were proposed. Bros Dr Rogers & Bro Palmer were desired to converse with the former, & Bros Castleman & Rush with the latter. —

Direction has been sought this day of the Lord, & several times lately, with regard to the Choice of Deacons: at this Meeting our Bro Simonds having briefly laid the affair before the Church, & just mentioned the scripture-qualifications of Deacons — then desired the Brethren present in office to nominate to the Church whom they should approve of to join with them in this Office. accordingly they recommended our Brethren Castleman Rush, Kilpin & Wells; were thereupon regularly & deliberately & unanimously elected as the Church's

{1771 & 1772}

Church-meeting. Thursday. 12th Decr 1771.

Our Bro Dr Rogers Junr began with prayer, & Bro Symonds concluded. At this meeting Sister Jepp & Denton were received into the Church.

Our Brethren mentioned the last (Autumn) this day accepted of the Church's call to the Office of Deacons, with much Humiliation & modesty; & declared their compliance with a holy humble fear & trembling.

Church-meeting. Thursday. 16th Janr. 1772.

Bro Rush began with prayer — & then Bro Symonds gave an hour's Exhortation to the Brethren lately chosen into office, grounded upon 2 Cor. 8. 23. latter part. They are the messengers of the churches, & the glory of Christ. Compare this with Acts 6. 2 3. 1 Tim. 3. 8—13.

Lord's Day. Feby 9th 1772.

This day has been memorable for a Declaration Bro Simonds read before the whole Church & Congregation, wherein he gave an account how he came to alter his sentiments about Baptism, & particularly informed the Church by what means & by what steps he was led to approve of & practice Believer's Baptism by Immersion.

He also begged to be excused from baptizing Infants as all & any others by Immersion. & solemnly promised that if liberty of conscience was granted with respect to a toleration to baptize agreeable to his present judgement, he would do nothing to disturb or interrupt the peace of the Church & would not introduce the subject into the Pulpit nor promote the Contraversy in conversation

A brief account of Brother Symonds's alteration of sentiment concerning Baptism. [1772] Bro[r] Leach censured & suspended. 199

But as several in the Church are greatly dissatisfied with this unexpected change of opinion, & are fearful left animosity & discord should ensue, it was judged expedient for them to meet weekly for prayer & conversation upon this difficult & delicate affair.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 13th Feb[y] 1772.

The following Brethren were the mouth of the Church in prayer viz Bro[r] J. Segus, W. Segus, Philpin, Tansley & Castleman, & Symonds.

nothing was said in conversation about the Subject above-mentioned. however direction was earnestly sought relative thereto, & 4 of the 5 Brethren that were engaged prayed with submission to the divine will that Bro[r] Symonds might be continued here.

Church-Meeting. Thursday 5 March. 1772.

Bro[r] J. Segus, Rush Bapel, & Symonds were engaged this day in prayer.

the Church after much solemn prayer & consideration, & conversation together came to a resolution this day to grant Bro[r] Symonds liberty of conscience as to baptizing, upon certain conditions which he had at first voluntarily proposed & agreed to: it was judged best upon the whole to bear with him, & tolerate him at least for one year.

Since our last meeting we have sustained a mournful loss by the death of our late Sister Martha Palmer aged 53.

It appearing that Bro[r] Jackson of Newport habitually & totally neglects public worship, the Church resolved to write him a letter of admonition & Bro[r] Segus was requested to draw it up.

Church-meeting. Friday. 3 April. 1772.

Bro[r] Dan[l] Segus began with prayer, & Bro[r] Symonds concluded with. Since our last Church-meeting Sister Elis. Rutlidge entered we trust into the joy of her Lord. aged 17. Mention was made that the Church's admonition to Bro[r] Jackson had a salutary effect as he has since attended the public Exercises of divine worship.

The Opinion of several Ministers in City & Country relative to the present situation of our Church were read & considered & also an Epistle from the Church to the London-Ministers previously drawn up by our Bro[r] Segus — containing a true & impartial representation of the proceedings of the Church in consequence of our Bro[r] Symonds's alteration of sentiments taken notice of in the 2 preceding Columns. wherein it was observed among other things that 3/4 Brethren are for trying Bro[r] Symonds one year, only 1/4 against it. those reasons were also mentioned that induced the Church to take a year for deliberation before they come to a final conclusion whether to dismiss or retain our present Pastor.

Bro[r] Leach was present & occasioned much altercation, he being by far the most active & evident of the dissatisfied Brethren. However the Church readily agreed to suspend him from the Ordinance till the manifest repentance & reformation of those things said to his charge, viz. playing at Cards & other Exercises of the like nature — actively engaged in as well as abetting & exploits done by dexterity of hand & dirty tricks frequently present at public houses till Midnight.

Slandering & maliciously opposing the Church at this critical juncture — by false & notorious misrepresentations & false exaggerations of the conduct both of Minister & People & this in private houses all which is undeniably evident, & was not there contradicted by any of that Party.

Church Meeting. 30 April. 1772. Thursday.

The following Brethren were this day the mouth of the Church in prayer viz Bro[r] Freelove, Rush, Philpin, & Symonds. Mr. Sister Clare fell asleep in Jesus since last Ch. Meeting

Transactions of the Church relative both to the Pastor & Members.

{1772}

Church-Meeting. 4 June. 1772. Thursday

Bro. Dunster, Bro. Bascell, Bro. Rogers, & Bro. Symonds engaged this day in Prayer.

Notice was given to the Church that our late Br. Wells was ordained at a Presbyterian Meeting in May last, but had no Dismission from us, nor indeed was ever sent out regularly by the Church, & stands no longer a member with us.

Church-Meeting. 2 July. 1772. Thursday.

Bro. Bell, Finsly & Rogers & Symonds were this day the month of the Church [illegible] the time of our last Church-meeting one [illegible] entered we request into the joy of our Lord.

This day [illegible] & Mary Lightwood were proposed to communion: Bro. Rogers Sen. & Jun. desired to converse with the former — and Bro. Bell & Kippin with the latter —

Church-Meeting. 30 July. 1772. Thursday.

Engaged in Prayer this day Bro. Fuller, Castleman, Mr. Huckle, Mr. Woodward: Bro. Symonds was not returned from his journey.

Two Letters were read, one wrote by Mr. Howard addressed to the Deacons; another wrote by Mr. Thos. Seale addressed to the Church. The answers to each were read: that to Bro. Howard was signed by 6 of the 8 Deacons, that to Mr. Seale was signed by most of the Brethren that were present.

Church-Meeting. 3 Sept. 1772. (Thursday.

Bro. Jarvis, Rusk & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Bro. Symmes & Sister Lightwood were received into fellow.

Afterwards the Brethren all retired into the Vestry — Bro. Symonds observed that his having lately Baptized 2 Members of the Church had contrary to his expectations disgusted several, whereas they insisted upon his doing so no more — he declared that after much Prayer & consideration he would agree to desist for the sake of peace

at the same time the Brethren except 2 allowed Bro. Symonds to baptize all who chuse it upon their admission into the Church, whether baptized in their Infancy or not — & that those who are & have been Members of this Church may if they see it their duty submit to the Ordinance, provided some other Pastor administers it. Bro. Symonds on his part promised not to administer Baptism to any in the Church unless the Church should hereafter give Leave which is not at all probable.

At this Conversation it was observed that this is the 4th Confession Bro. Symonds has made since his Change of sentiment for the sake of peace & harmony

first — not to introduce the Controversy into the Pulpit. Nor

secondly — into conversation in order to make Proselytes, unless it is first mentioned by others.

Thirdly — to procure Ministers to baptize the Infants of Church-Members

fourthly, & lastly to omit baptizing those that are already in the Church

The Church on their part also make 4 Concessions viz

1) That Bro. Symonds shall continue to be their Pastor notwithstanding this late alteration.

2) That he shall be allowed to baptize all those that desire it when admitted

3) That the Infants shall be baptized by neighbouring Ministers.

4) That Church-Members shall [illegible] to be baptized elsewhere if there [illegible] by neighbouring Ministers

The Proposals above-mentioned were agreed to in solemn & express manner by Each of the following Brethren

D. Negus, Odell, E. Wells,
T. Palmer, Rush, J. Kilpin, Deacons
R. Smith, W. Smith, R. Shillington,
R. Symonds, Gale, J. Hopkins,
W. Negus, W. Styles, H. Jansly, R. Wilcoxe,
J. Negus, Jno. Negus, R. Hucks, J. Bradnack,
W. Basset, W. Whiteman, Jo. Whiteman,
J. Castleman, G. Mann, J. Chaish, J. Woodward,
J. Wainwright, E. Pettit, J. Breadsill,
J. Jeffery

& Transient Members also, viz
J. Woodward, J. Dunton —

One Brother Thos. Heath, & Castleman Dre opposed those measures, D. Negus. The rest of the Brethren (viz 6) were not in the Vestry, neither consulted in private, 20 of them not [illegible] We have been informed that our Brother Jackson of Newport hearkened to the admonition sent him by the Church & constantly attends public Worship.

Church-Meeting. 1st Octr. 1772.
Bro. Odell & Symonds engaged in prayer: Mrs. Goodman of Hazeden was propounded: Bro. Odell & Wells were appointed to converse w. her.
But the greatest part of the time was taken up in examining a Charge alledged against our Sr. Fairchild for the heinous sin of drunkenness. the proofs however produced to all insufficient in the view of the Brethren, however the Church did not come to a final Conclusion but proposed to wait till another meeting, as Bro. Palmer is at sea, & [illegible] our Sr. Fairchild is a servant to his own daughter.

Church-Meeting. Thursday: 29th Octr. 1772.
Brethren engaged this day were Bro. Hucks, Kilpin, Colyer, Symonds &c. Sr. Goodman received Sister Fairchild acquitted without a dibenting Voice

Church-meeting. Thursday. 3d Decr. 1772.
Bro. Basset, D. Negus, Jno. Negus, Symonds prayed

Church-Meeting Thursday. 31 Decr. 1772.
Bro. Shillington, D. Negus, Odell, & Symonds prayed

Church-Meeting. Thursday 4th March 1773.
Bro. D. Negus, Hucks, Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in Prayer. Sister Mary Lightwoods Conduct was mentioned: Bro. Odell, Kilpin & Symonds had conversed with her, she first denied & towards confessed most of the Charges — viz neglect of reading, prayer, the Sabbath, running into debt, &c. Bro. Bird near &c. She appeared broken under the Brethren that had conversed with her, She was suspended from the Ordinance of the Lords Supper.

Ann Brownsell Member of the Church at Grandsden was at her desire admitted to occasional Communion with this Church.

The following persons were proposed to the Fellowship of this Church — John Goodman, Theodore John Langley, Bedford: Wm Janson, Easington. Bro. Palmer & Hucks appointed by the Church to converse with the first, Bro. D. Negus Odell with the second, Bro. Hucks & Bro. [illegible]

Church Meeting Wednesday 4 March. 1773.
Bro. Basset & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Bro. Jn. Goodman & Jn. Langley, & Wm. Janson were rec. into Fellowship with this Church.

Lords Day. 6 March. 1773.
All the Brethren were desired to attend in the Vestry
Br. Symonds observed that "the Articles of Agreement recorded "the preceding page limited the baptizing of Church Members "to neighbouring Ministers, but the place was not mentioned "But as some of the Brethren were dissatisfied with Mr. Coles's "baptizing 4 Members at Biggin, Br. Symonds had engaged "it should be so no more without the Churches Consent "that the Clause not at Biddenden) had since been inserted "by the desire of some Brethren. but notwithstanding "Br. Symonds had thus complied with these various "restraints, yet a few were uneasy, & wanted his removal "he therefore desired all the Brethren present

(Ditto see last Page) 1773. Church's Dealings with Members.

freely & faithfully to declare their minds & judgm^t about this important matter one by one.

The following Brethren solemnly & expressly without any perswasion or constraint declared it was their desire that Br Symonds should continue to be their Pastor, & not remove from Bedford — — viz 25 — —

Dan^l Regus, Tho^s Palmer, Thos Kirk, Jn^o Kilpin, Rd Lyon, Wm Lyon, Wm Regus, Robt Huckle, Josh Freelove, Jn^o Whiteman, Ch^s Thomson, Geo Mann, Jn^o Thos Charles, Jonathan Hopkins, Jn^o Cooper, Tho^s Woodward, Tho^s Bullock, Jn^o Bassett, Wm Wilsher, Wm Styles, Tho^s Wainwright, Edmund Pettit, Jn^o Langley, Rd Farnell, Jn^o Goodman.

3 Brethren viz Jn^o Regus, R Cuttleman, Jn^o Stillington were of a contrary opinion.

Br Wells desired to be excused

Odell & Broadhill withdrew without giving their opinion either way.

2 Transient Brethren joined in Love with the Church, viz Jn^o Denton & Thos Woodward.

Several were absent by reason of distance or illness.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 1 April. 1773.

Bro^r Odell, D. Regus, Goodman & Symonds were this day the month of the Church in prayer to God.

Sam^l Regus was propounded, Bro^r Odell & Wells appointed to converse with him.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 29 April. 1773.

Tho^s Woodward, Jn^o Denton, & Bro^r Symonds were this day the month of the Church in prayer to God.

Bro^r Sam^l Regus was received into fellowship.

Sarah Redman & Eliz^th Collins were propounded. R. not received

Bro^r Farnell & Whiteman appointed to converse with Jn^o Farnell, Bro^r Odell & D. Regus with the latter.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 3 June. 1773.

Bro^r Odell, Kirk, Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sarah Redman admitted to fellowship with the Church.

Eliz^th Collins deferred longer Bro^s & Sis^rs not being satisfied.

Sis^r Goode was suspended from the Ordinance for keeping loose company; Bro^r Palmer & Wells to converse with her.

Bro^r D. Regus & Odell with Sis^r Lightwood who was excluded 11^th of Feb^y. see the preceding Column.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 1 July. 1773.

Bro^r D. & Jn^o Regus, Styles, & Symonds prayed.

It appeared that several of the Church are not yet satisfied about Eliz^th Collins, therefore it was concluded upon to wait longer.

The Brethren that had conversed with Sis^r Goode discovered no remorse in her, they were desired to speak with her again.

Sis^r Lightwood owned herself wrong & the Church right in dealing with her, they were desired to converse with her again.

The case of the Seperatists was recommended to the Churches consideration & attention.

Mrs Priest of Cople & Agnes Jackson were proposed.

Bro^r D. Regus & Palmer to converse with the latter, Bro^r Huckle & Cooper with the former.

Church-Meeting. Thursday 29. July. 1773.

Bro^r Huckle & Symonds engaged in prayer.

The Brethren appointed to converse with Sister Lightwood have not yet been with her.

The other Brethren that seen Sister Goode discovered some penitence, but did not give full satisfaction. Sis^r Priest & Jackson were received.

The Church agreed to require Bro^r Fraleon to appear at a Meeting & prove or retract the accusation he alleged against them of using him ill, which is the reason he assigned for absenting himself from Church Ordinances for a Year & a quarter.

2 Messengers were appointed to converse with Bro^r Fraleon & give him notice that the Church intend to cut him off very soon for being absent about a Year & for Unfaithfulness, swearing &c.

The same Brethren that Bro^r Palmer & Kilpin are desired to tell Bro^r Peak of the Churches intention concerning him, on account of the things charged against him at the

Church Meeting, 3 August. 1773.

Bro^r Odell was appointed to write a Letter of Admonition to each of the Members who formed a Seperation from us & together with several of the Congregation opened another Meeting 1 April. 1773.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 2d Sept.r 1773.

Bro.r Basset began & Bro.r Symonds concluded with prayer. Ann King was admitted a member by dismission from a Church at London under the pastoral care of Mr. Booth.

Thomas Leach was excommunicated.

Bro.r Peck's case was attended to & as there appeared some remorse & promise of reformation it was concluded to wait longer.

the Letter to the Members that are withdrawn from us was read & approved of by most of the Members, & signed in the name of the Church by 6 Deacons.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 30 Sept.r 1773.

No answer being sent to the above-mentioned Letter, & no notice being taken of their contents, the seperated Members are suspended from the Lord's Table. the Members under censure to be waited upon yet longer.

2 were propounded viz. Eliz.th Knott of Stagsden & Kitty Bell of Bedford: Bro.r D.r Reguss & Rush were appointed to converse & with the former, Bro.r Rush & Kilpin with the latter.

Fred. Dunton, Bro.r Odell, Tunnell & Symonds engaged in prayer.

It was also agreed upon that the Church should come to a final Determination next Meeting with regard to those Members seperated from us.

Church-Meeting. Thursday: 28 Oct.r 1773.

This day it was concluded upon that the following persons having withdrawn from the Church could not with any propriety be deemed Members of it any longer viz.r

Mr.s Belsham & her Daughter Eliz.th
Mr.s Palmer & her Daughter Sarah,
Mr.s Eliz.th Woodward, Frances Lansdale,
Mary Lambkin, Mr.s Cheyney, Mr.s Brown, &
& Mr.s Shillington.

All the Members were the last Sabbath desired to attend, to-day; many more were present than usual but not near all 18 Brethren were present & all were unanimous without one dissenting tho', that these persons are now no longer in communion or connexion with this Church of Christ having voluntarily & deliberately withdrawn from us.

Sis.r Ridgly has for about 2 months withdrawn from us, & joined with the rest, & intends to continue with them: it was however agreed to wait a little longer, & Bro.r Odell & Kilpin were deputed by the Church to admonish her on this head.

Sis.r Eliz.th Knott & Math. Bell were this day received into communion with us. Fred. Woodward & Bro.r Symonds prayed.

Sisters Pettit, Pickard, Mayes, Bro.r Thorogood, Fowkes, & Bro.r Whiteman dec.d this year.

[illegible] 7 Sisters & 3 Brethren have this year withdrawn from us—
10 Sisters & 3 Brethren have this year been joined to us—

Church-Meeting. Thursday: 25. Nov.r 1773.

Bro.r Woodward, Bro.r Odell, Rush, Langley, & Symonds prayed.

[illegible]

Church Meeting. Thursday: 23 Dec.r 1773.

Bro.r D.r & Regus Hurkle, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sis.r Lightwood was restored as the 2 Brethren were satisfied that [illegible] conversed with her (viz. Bro.r Palmer & Odell) & the rest of the Church acquiesced, as they were desired to propose their objections if they had any, but none were mentioned.

Bro.r Wells & Kilpin were appointed to converse with Sis.r Goode, & report the result of their enquiries next Church Meeting.

Bro.r W. Regus & Bro.r Rush to do the same with regard to Sis.r Freelove, who has absented herself from the Church more than 3 years notwithstanding repeated admonitions.

The Brethren appointed have not seen w.th Sis.r Ridgley.

Bro.r Peck's case to be noticed & considered next Meeting.

Mary Bettel of Stagsden was proposed to the Church & Bro.r Goodman to converse with her.

Mr.s Elmor & Sis.r & Tho.s Hopkins were also proposed, Bro.r Palmer & Odell to converse with them.

Bro.r Malden's case was recommended to consideration against the next Meeting — he having neglected to attend at our place of worship, & to sit down with us for near 2 years past — he has accused & reproach both Pastor & People, though he now denies the latter & professes only to be disgusted with the former, & says he cannot sit down with the present Minister, & declared that he had or would join the Seperate Party.

Acts of the Church

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 20 Jany. 1774.
Bro[r] Cooper & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Abigail Rudgley & Mary Shercloue were unanimously declared withdrawn from the Church, the latter still attends at our Meetings, the former goes to the Seperates.
Sister Goodys case considered, no satisfaction obtained concerning her, the Church however agreed to wait longer.
Bro[r] Malden & Peck's cases deferred till great Meeting.
Bro[r] Cooper, Bass, Tho[s] Hopkins, & Sis[r] Mary Battell were received into communion with this Church of Christ.
Joshua Nichols was proposed, & the Church agreed to depute Bro[r] Rush & Kilpin to converse w[th] him.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 3 March. 1774.
Bro[r] Nicholls was received into fellowship this day.
Eliz[th] White, Member at Alcester, admitted to occasional Communion.
Bro[r] Odell & Kilpin appointed to converse with Sis[r] Goody; Bro[r] Palmer & Wells with B[r] Peck.
Bro[r] Odell & Symonds were engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting. 31 March. 1774. Thursday
Bro[r] Kilpin, Nichols, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Wm Malden & Mary Goode were cut off.
Bro[r] Peck appeared penitent to our Brethren that conversed with him, & promised to come to a Church Meeting.
Sister Beards case was mentioned, who has absented herself some years from public worship.
Bro[r] Huckle & Whiteman were appointed to converse with her. Eliz[th] Nichols was nominated: Bro[r] Rush & Mr Vigus to converse with her.

Church-Meeting 28 April omitted. Mr Crick preached the following Sabbath at the Ordinance.
Eliz[th] Woodham was proposed to the Fellowship of this Church: Bro[r] Palmer & Hall were desired to inform themselves & the Church concerning her experience of a work of grace, & her walk & conversation.

1774. Acts of the Church.

Church-Meeting. Thursday 2 June. 1774.
Bro[r] Bartlett & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Sis[r] Woodham & Nichols were received into y[e] Church.
Sis[r] Beard promised information to the Brethren that conversed with her.
Bro[r] Peck still neglects to perform his promise so often repeated of attending a Church Meeting, there to testify his humiliation.

Church-Meeting. Thursday, 30 June. 1774.
Bro[r] D'Aeth, Rush, Hancock, Langley, Bass, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Mary Brawell, Ann Hedges, Ursely Staggers & Mary Brown both of Caddington were proposed to Communion with the Church: Bro[r] Whiteman & Whibley, & Bro[r] Huckle & Cooper were commissioned to inform themselves & the Church concerning their experience, walk & conduct.
Bro[r] Hyles was suspended for illegally purchasing for his sons Mare Wood of Isabadys Stewards, who had no right to dispose of any.

Church-Meeting. Thursday 7th July. 1774.
Assembled on a particular occasion, viz. to settle a new Church, for the particulars of which see the other end of this Book.
Brethren Cooper, Huckle, & Goodman & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Mary Brawn was proposed for Bro[r] Palmer & Odell to converse with her.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 4 Aug[t] 1774.
Bro[r] Whibley & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Mary Brawn, Mary Brown, & Ursely Staggers, were admitted to fellowship with us.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 1 Sept. 1774.
Bro[r] Rush, Hancock, Nichols, D'Aeth, Dunton & Symonds were the mouth of y[e] Church in prayer.

Church-Meeting. 29 Sept. 1774.
Bro[r] Huckle, Bassett, D'Aeth, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Bro[r] Palmer & Kilpin to converse with Eliz[th] Button, who was proposed to fellowship with the Church.
Bro[r] D'Aeth & Rush with Bro[r] Hyles.

Church-Meeting. Thursday: 10. Nov.r 1774.

Bro.r Goodman & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sis.r Button was admitted to Church-fellowship.

Bro.r Wyles was present, but gave no satisfactory evidence of suitable repentance & humiliation.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 15 Dec.r 1774.

Bro.r Woodward, Bro.r W.m Negus, Odell, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Bro.r Odell & Palmer were appointed to converse with Bro.r Wyles against the next Meeting.

Bro.r Hopkins for drunkenness was suspended.

Bro.r Hunkle & Whiteman to speak to him.

Bro.r Nichols & Langley with Bro.r Peck.

Church Meeting. Thursday. 12 Jan.y 1775.

Bro.r Langly, J. Negus, Griffin & Symonds were the Brethren that prayed.

Bro.r Wyles acknowledged his faults &c, but did not appear sufficiently humbled.

Bro.r Hopkins attempted to vindicate himself & even denied his crime till convicted by the force of evidence.

Bro.r Peck was not spoke to this time.

Bro.r Breadsill has absented himself near a year from our public Assemblies, but is now convinced of his error in forsaking the Church he stands related to, & in attending at the separated Society. Therefore now desires to return again to the Lord's house & the Lord's Table. To this proposal the Church heartily & chearfully agreed, neither had they hitherto passed any censure upon him.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 2 March 1775.

Bro.r D. Negus, Rush, Furness, Cooper, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Mary Freeman and Ann Whiteman were propounded. Brother Negus Sen.r & Furness were appointed to converse w.th the former, Bro.r Odell & Rush w.th the latter.

N.B. about a fortnight after this Meeting, our Sister Ann Whitenesh fell asleep in Jesus.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 30 March. 1775.

Bro.r Castleman, Nicholls & Symonds prayed.

Mary Freeman & Ann Whiteman were received into Church-

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 4 May. 1775.

Bro.r Odell, J. Negus, Griffin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting. 1 June. 1775. Thursday.

Bro.r Hunkle, Bassett, Wilsher & Symonds engaged in prayer.

The following Church-Meeting Mr. Bull preached.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 3 Jun.y 1775.

Bro.r D. J. & W. Negus, Bass, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Mr. Hull was proposed to the Church. Bro.r Odell & Griffin were appointed to converse with him, & Bro.r D. & J. Negus with Hannah Roe, who was also propounded.

It should have been noticed that June 1.st Hannah Sayant a member of the Church at Walgrave was admitted to occasional Communion by a Letter of Recommendation.

Church-Meeting. 31 August 1775. Thursday.

Bro.r Odell, Rush, Symonds engaged in prayer.

Hannah Roe was received to fellowship with the Church previous to the Meeting it appeared that John Hall's character was unobjectionable for a Church-member.

Richard Griffin was proposed — Bro.r Furness & Bro.r Griffin were appointed to converse with him.

Sis.r Woodham was also propounded — Bro.r Odell & Bro.r Rush, [illegible] desired to converse with him, & make the usual Enquiries.

Church-Meeting. 28 Sept.r 1775. Thursday.

Bro.r D. J. & W. Negus, Griffin, & Fred. Dunton engaged in prayer.

Bro.r Symonds at London.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 2 Nov.r 1775.

Bro.r Goodman, Hopkins, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Bro.r Griffin & Woodham were admitted to Communion with us.

Bro.r Hopkins & Peck who have been long under censure have been mentioned this day & many times besides, but no favourable circumstances appear in their case — Bro.r Wyles appears resident & humbled, the Church will wait a little longer previous to any determination concerning him.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 30. Nov.r 1775.

Bro.r Furness, Langly, Wilsher, J. Negus & Symonds engaged in prayer. Sis.r Emery died 26.th inst.

Bro.r J. Peck was cast out from the Church on account of Drunkenness, swearing, neglect of the Sabbath.

Thursday Dec.r 28.th 1775. Mr. Bull preached.

Church-Meeting. Thursday. 1 [illegible] 1776.

Bro.r Odell, Castleman, J. Negus, Cooper, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Emery Eastcott was proposed —

Bro.r Palmer & Castleman to converse with her.

1776. Cub of the Church Book of admission & rejection. 1776.

Church Meeting. Thursday, 29 Feb. 1776.
Bro. Woodstone, Goodman, A. De Vegue & Symonds prayed.
Sister Emery Cook of Iw was received into fellowship.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 April. 1776.
Bro. Hunkle, A. De Vegue, Rush, Hopkins & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 25 April. 1776.
Bro. A. Vegue, Bassett, Odel, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church Meeting: Friday, 31 May. 1776.
Bro. Bass, Hopkins, Nichols & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Bro. Wainwright departed last month.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 July. 1776.
Bro. Bull preached a very evangelical & excellent Discourse, & is always acceptable to this Church & their Pastor.
John Bagnal & his Wife were propounded, Bro. Palmer & Castleman to converse with them & make the usual enquiries. Bro. Maynard was also proposed to Communion, Bro. A. Vegue & Kilpin were appointed to converse with her, & give an account of her to the Church.
Tho. Boston was proposed, Bro. Rush & Turner were desired by the Church to converse with him.
Jer. Ashby has long desired to join, but we waited for a proper opportunity: Bro. Odel & Nichols to converse with him.
Brother A. de Lyon was last Thursday translated from this Church we trust to the Church triumphant above. the Lord replace such an humble member.

Church Meeting: Thursday, 1 Aug. 1776.
Brother Langley & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Brother Diamond & his Wife, Brother Ashby & Baxter — and Sister Maynard were admitted members of this Church.

Church Meeting: Thursday, 7th Sep. 1776.
Bro. Odel, A. Vegue, Nichols, & Symonds prayed.
John Barham & Jonathan Tebbut were proposed to Communion with the Church; our Brethren Bass & Goodman were appointed to converse with the former, Bro. Rush & W. A. Vegue with the latter.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 3 Oct. 1776.
Bro. Goodman, Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Bro. Barham & Tebbut were received into the Church.
John Nottingham was proposed Bro. Hunkle & Nichols were desired to converse with him.

Church-Meeting. 21 Nov. 1776. Thursday.
Brother Odel, D. Vegue, Nichols, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Jer. Nottingham was received. Christopher Barker & Eliz. Sharp were proposed — Brother Palmer & Odel were appointed to converse with the former — Brother Kilpin & Rush with the latter.

Friday, 13 Dec. 1776. Fast Day.
A solemn day was this! a day of humiliation and supplication: the following Brethren prayed D. & A. Vegues, Kilpin, Rush, Castleman, Odel, & Symonds: the latter was thanked at Noon & in the Ev. — the first Service began at 9 past 10 & ended at 1/3: the other was only one hour & half. further particulars I have recorded elsewhere.

Church-Meeting. Thursday, 19 Dec. 1776.
Bro. Hunkle, A. Bass, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Christopher Barker was admitted a Member. —
Edmund Pettit was excluded for cheating his Creditors & selling them at defiance when he left this Town & went to Northampton — also for neglecting public worship, when he came over from Nhampton several times.
Mary Pettit his Wife was also excommunicated for drunkeness, swearing, & reproaching the Church & Pastor, declaring before she left this Town she would have no more to do with this Church nor Minister, & that she had left off prayer long ago.
Place this as for a lamentation & grief. —
Mrs. Bissil was suspended for drunkeness. —
It appeared that Bro. Hopkins appeared pained & humbled in the Week & Sabbath ensuing but some of the Brethren insisted upon his appearing before the Church, before his re-admission.
Bro. Castleman & De Vegue were appointed to converse with Eliz. Sharp as the other 2 Brethren declined it, that were mentioned before.

1777. Various Acts of the Church.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 16th Jany. 1777.

Bro[d] Rush & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sister Eliz[a] Sharp was admitted a Member.

Bro[r] Hopkins was present & acknowledged his having acted contrary to his profession by bad courses, & keeping bad Company, whereby he was led to Drunkenness, & neglected prayer for some months. he appeared this day & one Sabbath lately (in the Vestry) greatly broken, penitent, & humble, the Brethren were satisfied, & unanimously agreed to restore him.

Sister Sansum was charged with drunkenness & frequently denying the same: it was agreed to suspend her. Since our last Church-meeting Sis[r] Bell & Sis[r] Negus were removed by death.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 20 Nov[r]. 1777.

Bro[r] Ashby, C. Negus, Castleman, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Mr[s] Ann & Mr[s] Mary Bass, & Mr[s] Susan Worral were proposed to fellowship with the Church.

Bro[r] Palmer & Goodman were appointed to converse with the two former, & Bro[r] D. & C. Negus with the latter.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 3[d] April. 1777.

Bro[r] D. & C. Negus & Hopkins, & Symonds prayed.

Mr[s] Ann Bass, Mr[s] Mary Bass, Mr[s] Susan Worral were admitted to communion with this Church.

Mr[s] Woodward suspended & censured for concealing Goods that belonged to her Husband's Creditors.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 1 May, 1777.

Bro[r] Odell, Furness, D[r] & C. Negus, & Symonds prayed.

Sister Yates was dismissed to the New Meeting.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 29 May, 1777.

Bro[r] C. Negus, Nicholls, Rush, Huckle & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 3 July, 1777.

Bro[r] W[m] Negus, Odell, Langley, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 31 July, 1777.

Bro[r] Furness, Kilpin, D. & C. Negus engaged in prayer.

Bro[r] Symonds at London.

1777 – 1778.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 Sept. 1777.

Bro[r] Lyon, Langley, Odell, Kilpin, Denton, & Symonds prayed.

Sis[r] Thomson in May, Sis[r] Nicholls in Aug[t] were removed from this Vale of Tears by the Angel Death, with many more

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 9th, 1777.

Ann Gibson was proposed to communion with this Church: Bro[r] Palmer & Odell appointed to converse with her.

Mr Coles prayed & preached.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 6[th] Nov[r] 1777.

Bro[r] Huckle & Symonds prayed.

Sis[r] Ann Gibson was admitted to communion with us.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 Dec[r], 1777.

Bro[r] Rush & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sarah Dunham was proposed: Bro[r] Kilpin & Bro[r] Langley were appointed to converse with her.

Eliz[a] Elliott was also proposed: Bro[r] Odell & Bro[r] Furness were deputed to converse with her, & make the usual Enquiries. The[s] Robinson was also propounded: Bro[r] Castleman & Rush to converse with him.

Note was appointed to be given to Sis[r] Sansum that the Church are unanimously agreed to cut her off next Church-Meeting, unless contrary to expectation she should discover & testify humiliation &c. — other matters were canvassed that are to be determined next Meeting, Convicting, & then a Memorandum will be made of them in this Book.

Church-Meet[g] Thursday, 8 Jan[y], 1778.

Brother Huckle & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Sisters Dunham & Elliot, & Brother Robinson were admitted Members.

Mr Benjamin Palmer Preacher of Grainsdon Green was recommended & received to occasional Communion

Bro[r] Wyles & Sister Woodward were restored: both were present, & spoke humbly & feelingly. —

Sis[r] Sansum not excluded as Bro[r] Brethren wanted to wait longer: Bro[r] Palmer & C. Negus appointed to converse with her.

Bro[r] Odell & Palmer with Brother Bassett.

It was agreed to dismiss agreeable to their request our Sisters Whiteman, Church, & Hare to the Church at Cotton End, where they all live.

Whereas 8th Mo. Bro. Nichols has expressed some Inclination & desire towards the solemn & united work of the Ministry; it was at a former Meeting proposed, & at this Meeting further agreed upon by the Church that 2 or 3 of the Brethren should converse with him every Lords Day till all had done so that those it, in order to receive information & satisfaction concerning his views of this important & difficult undertaking.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 5th Mo. 7. 1778.
Bro. Pettingham, Cooper, Bass, & Symonds prayed.
It appeared that Sunsam persists in the practice & denial of the things laid to her Charge, therefore it was concluded to exclude her from Communion with us as a Church of Christ.

Fast Day: Friday, 2d Feb. 1778.
a solemn, humbling & comfortable Day.
First Service from about 10 to 3. Bro. Irwin at 6.
Bro. Dan & A. Vegus poorly, the former has been confined many months. the following engaged, Bro. Eldridge, Rush, Phillips, Odell, A. Vegus, Fisher, Burness, Symonds. the latter who preached twice.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 5 March, 1778.
Bro. Wyles, A. Vegus, Langly, Jed. Palmer Jun., & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 2 April, 1778
Bro. Odell, Hopkins, A. Vegus & Symonds prayed
Bro. Babbett was present & was visiting, the things as well in public this Day as formerly in private to the Brethren appointed to converse with him, acknowledged himself culpable, & declared his repentance & humiliation.
NB. It was lately agreed at a Church-Meeting that none under Church Censure shall be admitted to Communion, unless they not only give satisfaction to the Brethren deputed to converse with them, but also before the Church & Society a proper sense of their Conduct.
This Rule was made in compliance with the request of Bro. A. Vegus who said it was always the custom here formerly

General Church-Meeting.
April 30th 1778. Thursday.
Bro. Treelove, Foster, A. Vegus & Symonds engaged in Prayer.
Notice was taken there had not been a Gen. Meeting of this kind since Aug. 1. 1771. since which there have been

Dismiss.	1 Brother	4 Sisters.
Dec.	5 Brethren	20 Sisters.
Separated	3 Brethren	8 Sisters.
Excluded	4 Brethren	4 Sisters.
	13	36

Total 49.

Added 18 Brethren 33 Sisters
Total 51.

The present Number of Members is 129.
16 Brethren — 81 Sisters —
just the same Number the Year I was settled, 1763.

At this time none proposed to Communion & no Member under Church Censure

The Brethren having conversed with Bro. Nichols agree to try his Gifts in a private way against another Month.

Church-Meeting: 28th May 1778. Thursday
Brother Babbet, Cooper, Rush, Burness, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Sr. Mrs. Haynes was proposed for Restoration; she was excluded between 40 & 48 years ago. She did not come to the Church meeting after

Church-Meeting: 2 July, 1778.
Bro. Wyles, A. & A. Vegus, Symonds & Fr. Dunlap engaged in Prayer.
Mrs. Harrison & Sister Nichols were proposed to Communion: Bro. Dan & Vegus & Rush were appointed to converse with the former, Bro. Odell & Phillips with the latter.

Some Members received, others censured. 1778. 1779. Ditto

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 30 July 1778.
Bro[r] Odel, Kilpin, Base, W[m] Negus, Woodham, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
The two Persons proposed to Communion could not conveniently attend.
Brother Nichols has three exercised: the two first times were discouraging, but the third more agreable: it was agreed he should proceed in speaking now & then by one or few.

Church-Meeting: 3 Sept, 1778. Thursday
Bro[r] Bassett, D. Negus, Swan, & Symonds prayed
Sister Harrison & Sister Slade were admitted to Communion the latter by a Dismission from the Society at London Tabernacle.
Bro[r] Langley was suspended from Communion for embezzling of Cloth, he being a Taylor.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1 Oct, 1778.
Brother Lyon, Woodham, Bester, Cooper, T. Hopkins & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 29 Oct, 1778.
Bro[r] Odel, Cobbleman, Kilpin, Rush this Day engaged in prayer: Bro[r] Symonds ill & confined.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 26 Nov[r] 1778.
Bro[r] Wilsher, Mann, Base & Symonds engaged in prayer. This Day a Fun Sermon was preached at the Interment of our Bro[r] Palmer, aged 69.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 31 Dec[r] 1778.
Bro[r] Odel, Thurnell, W[m] Negus & Symonds prayed. W[m] Sharp was proposed to Communion. Bro[r] Rush & W[m] Negus to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 28 Jan[y] 1779.
Bro[r] Hopkins, D. Negus, & Symonds prayed.
Bro[r] Base charged with repeated Drunkeness, Bro[r] Odel & Skinner desired to converse w[th] him.
Bro[r] Griffin was charged with indecent conversation with a person of bad character: it is proposed if he cannot clear himself to exclude him next Church time. Our last Sister Block fell asleep in Jesus.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 March 1779. 209

W[m] Sharp who was proposed 2 months ago was rec[d].
Rebekah Nichols was also admitted to a Member: she was proposed 2[d] July last, but was delayed by reason of a Charge that now appears false & groundless.
Bro[r] Freeman was excluded on account of indecent proposals to a person of ill fame — lying in order to vindicate & excuse himself: he is also suspected of Crim. Con. with the person above referred to.
Bro[r] Base was also excluded on account of repeated Drunkeness, & a general inclination that way, & is charged by several that know him with that practice even since he has been censured by the Church & restored: twice he owns.
It is a great grief to the Church to proceed so, but a necessity obliged them, & none made any objection. The Lord humble & revive us all & may the Lord humble & heal backsliders!
Bro[r] Rushe, Nichols, & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: 1 April, 1779. Thursday.
Bro[r] Odel, Lyon, Cooper, & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 29 April, 1779.
Bro[r] Mann, Goodman, Brett, Wilsher, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Ann Bester, Eleanor Ames, Luke Pickering, W[m] Roe, were proposed to fellowship & communion with this Church the following Brethren were appointed to converse with them, & enquire into their experience against another Meeting
Bro[r] Rush & Thurnell, Bro[r] Odel & Kilpin,
Bro[r] Base & Bro[r] Goodman, Bro[r] Cobleman & Bro[r] Negus.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 6 May, 1779.
Bro[r] Bester & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Bro[r] Roe & Pickering, Sisters Ames & Bester were admitted to Communion: W[m] Jones Melchbourn was proposed, Bro[r] D[d] & D. Negus to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 1 July 1779.
Bro[r] Jackson, Kilpin, W[m] Negus, & Symonds prayed.
Sister Melchbourn was received to fellowship.
J. Stratton was proposed, Bro[r] Church & Mann to converse with him.

Acts of the Church 1779 & 1780.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 29 July, 1779.
Mention has been already made concerning
Bro[r] Nichols inclination to the work of
the Ministry, Vol 1st p. 198 & what steps have been
taken relative to that important matter,
Page 208, April 30: Page 209, July 30. —
this day he exercised at the Church Meeting
to the satisfaction of the generality of the Brethren
& it was concluded he should be desired to do so
again by divine allowance next Sabbath commission
Bro[r] Hunnes & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 2 Sept[r] 1779.
Bro[r] Lyon, Hann, Cooper, Hilsum, Odel prayed.
Bro[r] Symonds was sick till that day, but recovered the next.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 30 Sept[r] 1779.
Bro[r] D[r] Rogers, Nicholls, Hopkins & Symonds
engaged in prayer. Bro[r] Hatton was admitted.
Since our last Church-Meeting
Sister Matthews entered into the joy of her Lord.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 18 Nov, 1779.
Bro[r] Odel, Woodham, Barker, Wester, & Cooper prayed.
Bro[r] Symonds confined with old Father Complaints.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 16 Dec, 1779.
Bro[r] Hann & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Bro[r] Nichols preached again, as he had done several
Sabbaths before the Morning & Afternoon Services,
& also many times at our Friends Houses in the
County, since the day noticed at the top of this Page.
Bro[r] Castleman & Hunnes have conversed with
Bro[r] Langley without satisfaction.
Abigail Read & Alice Biggs her sister were proposed
Bro[r] Harris & Hann were appointed to converse with them.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 20 Jan[y] 1780.
Bro[r] Odel, Hilsher, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Alice Biggs was admitted a member, her Sister ill, could not attend — Mary Simmons a member at Garlingay was received into full Communion.
Bro[r] Langley restored, without any objection made.
Nichols appointed to preach Sabbath-Days occasionally.

Brother Nichols sent out by the Church March 2

Fast Day: Friday, Feby 4. 1780.
Bro[r] D[r] Rogers, Rush, Castleman, Hilsum, Odel, and
Nichols & Symonds prayed: Bro[r] Symonds
read several Portions of Scripture suited to the
solemnities of the day, & preached twice:
we sang & suitable Hymns. may the Lord
graciously accept & answer us for Jesus sake!

Church-Meeting: Thursday, March 2, — 1780.
Bro[r] Sharp & Symonds engaged in prayer —
Abigail Read was admitted a member —
Andrew Shaw & Wm Hall a Serj[t] & a Soldier were
admitted to occasional Communion with us while
they continue in this Town.

Bro[r] Nichols was this day sent out with great
solemnity to preach the Gospel, where
Providence might appoint him, Garlingay.
20 Brethren were present besides the
Pastor: 10 of whom united with the Pastor
in the above mentioned list: 3 did not, viz
Bro[r] Odel said he could not give his Consent,
Bro[r] D[r] Rogers, & Bro[r] Bass stood Neuter.
Bro[r] Nichols, prayed & preached at this Meeting.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 30 March, 1780.
Brethren Odel, Hopkins, Langley, Hyles, Symonds
engaged in prayer. Eliz Crockford was proposed,
Bro[r] Cooper & Hilsher to converse with her.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 4 May, 1780.
Bro[r] Cooper, D[r] Rogers, Soldier Hale, & Symonds
engaged in prayer. Sister Crockford was received.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 25 May, 1780.
Bro[r] Bass, Winston, Hann, Palmer, Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 29 June, 1780.
Bro[r] Barker, Langley, Hunnes, Hilsum, Odel, Symonds
engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 3 August, 1780.
Brother Woodham, Nicholls, Rush, Bass, &
Symonds engaged in Prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 31 Aug[t] 1780.
Bro[r] D[r] Rogers, Hopkins, Cooper, Hilsher, Symonds.
Mr[s] Smith & Mr[s] Hunnes were proposed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 27 Sept, 1700.
Bro Goodman, Shaw, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Sister Eliz Smith was admitted a Member: She spoke her own experience, very much to ye purpose. Her Husbd experience was read & very full & pertinent but some part of his Conduct & was unbecoming, & represented to the Church this day by a Brother who did not know of it till ye 8th Day, which gave such dissatisfaction to several Members, that it was by all means proper & necessary to omit receiving him for the present.

Church-Meeting: 9th Novr 1700. Thursday
Bro Swan, Palmer, Langly, & Symonds prayed.
It appeared since the last Church-Meeting, that the reports concerning Br Hunt were frivolous & ill-founded, therefore he was this day received.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 5 Dec, 1700.
Bro Francis, Rush, Woodham, Odel, Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 Jany 1701.
Mr Bull prayed & preached excellently.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1 Feby 1701.
Bro Cooper, Wilsher, De Rogus, Symonds prayed.

Fast Day Wedy, 21 Feby 1701.
Bro Ashby, Wilsher, Wyles, Cooper, Palmer, Symonds spent time in prayer. Br Symonds preached betwn 2 & 3 o'Clock, Brother Nicholls in the Ev.

Thursday: 1 March, 1701. Church-Meeting.
Bro Langly, Swan, Philpin, Woodham, Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 29 March, 1701.
Bro Lyon, Barker, Woodham, Francis, Odel, and Symonds engaged in Prayer. a Letter was read from Mr Ryland recommending to occasional Communion Mr Thos Read of Houghton.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 May, 1701.
Bro Huckle, Wyles, Rush, & Symonds prayed.
Widow Smith who had sat down with us as a transient member, was received to full Communion by a dismission from the Church at Spinis Risborough.
Widow Field was proposed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 31 May, 1701.
Since our last Meeting we dearly beloved Bro Danl Regus fell asleep in Jesus Ap. 8th. who had been an honourable Member of this antient Church 68 years he joined Dec 23, 1632. also George Swann, another valuable Member of the Church. Engaged in prayer this day Br Philpin, Wilsher, Baster, Robt Smith, & Symonds.
Widow Field not received, as her account of her experience was not satisfactory, but vastly defective.
Br Shannar was proposed: Br Francis & Row appointed to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 26 June, 1701.
Bro Goodman, Hopkins, Langley, & Symonds prayed.
Br Shannar could not be present being Haytime.
Br Fields was censured & suspended for Drunkeness,
Br Odel & Philpin were appointed to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 2 August, 1701.
Br Sandwell preached a very good Sermon.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 30 August, 1701.
Bro Wilsher, Cooper, Barker, Swinch, & Nicholls engaged in prayer. Bro Symonds upon a Journey.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 Oct, 1701.
Bro Odel, De Regus, & Shaw prayed.
Mary Sammonds a Member of the Church at Shambrook was admitted to occasional commun
Br Odel & Philpin gave an account of Br Fields discovering some tokens of remorse, & were desired to repeat their visit. Mr Hobson of St Neots prayed & preached an excellent Sermon.
Since our last Church-Meeting our Sister Woodham & Sister Maynard departed this life in peace.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 22 Novr, 1701.
Bro Huckle, Wilsher, Palmer, & Symonds prayed.
Friend Marshal was proposed to Communion.
Br Odel & Francis appointed to Converse with him.
Br Fields Case was noticed, & appeared more discouraging than before, it was however agreed to wait longer.

Acts of the Church, 1701, 1702.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 2nd Dec, 1701.

Bro Rush & Symonds engaged in prayer. Bro John Shaman of Boston, and Sist Rebekah Marshal Widow of Bedford were received into the Church: the former was proposed 21 May, but could not be present in the Summer. & Temperance Church a Member of the Church at Cotton End was admitted to transient Communion by the mutual consent of that Church & this.

Brother Baldo's case was stated, the Church deputed Bro Castleman & Symonds to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 26th Jan, 1702.

Bro Kilpin, Castleman, Wyles, & Symonds prayed. Mary Dorman a member of the Church at Thimbrook was admitted to occasional Communion.

Fast Day, Friday, 8th Feb, 1702.

Bro Wilsher, & Deane, Castleman, Kilpin & Symonds prayed: Br Symonds preached between 2 & 3: Br Nichols in the Eve.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 26 Feb, 1702.

Brother Woodham, Shatton, Smith, Nichols, Symonds engaged in prayer. Br & Sr Baldo was excluded from Church fellowship, as it appeared he continued in the practice of drunkenness, & was guilty of that sin in a very notorious degree since last Church meeting.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 1702. Whitsuntide.

Bro Langly, Cooper, Wyles, Odel, Sym prayed. Wm Kilpin was proposed to the Church Bro Odel & Furness were appointed to converse with him.

Acts of the Church 1702

Church-meeting: Thursday 2 May, 1702.

Bro Deane, Bass, Rush & Symonds prayed. Br Wm Kilpin was admitted a member.

Church Meeting: Thursday 30 May, 1702.

Bro Baster, Cooper, Furness, Wyles, Nichols pray'd: Br Symonds upon his long Journey.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 July, 1702.

Br Bull preached a very suitable Sermon from Tit II. 14. on Br Hubble & Sister Eagle died since the last Ch-Meeting.

Church Meeting: Thursday 1 Aug, 1702.

Bro Ch Degue, Langly, Fr Smith, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Sister Fairchild was suspended for Drunkenness.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 29 Aug, 1702.

Bro Rush, Woodham, Castleman, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Ann Fairchild was excluded. John Shatton was suspended for stealing Poles ~~& denying it~~ & declaring he had leave to take them. Eliz Smith was suspended for levity & mirth on the Sabbath, for keeping company and playing with young Lads & rude Girls — slandering & abusing her Neighbours, & some of the Church-Members.

Mr Benjamin Palmer was received into full Communion by a Dismission from the Church at Gransdon. Sis Lawford died about this time.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 Oct, 1702.

Bro Odel, Langley, & Symonds prayed. Bro Shatton discovered humiliation to the Brethren who conversed with him, it was concluded to see further against another meeting, & the same resolution was formed as to Sister Smith — there was a sad account given by the Pastor concerning Bro Row, but it was agreed to wait unto the meeting before excommunication

1782 & 1783 Dealings towards offending Members & other Acts of the Church 1783.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 14th Nov, 1782

Brō Furness, Hopkins, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Brō Statton was unanimously restored.

Sister Smith to appear next Meeting before the Church. Brō Kilpin & Furness were appointed to converse with Wm Rowe.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 12 Dec, 1782.

Brō Kilpin, Bass, Wilshire, & Symonds engaged in Prayer. the Cases of Wm Rowe & Eliz Smith were considered, but left dubious & uncertain.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 16 Jan, 1783.

Brō Palmer, Hurst, I Rogers, Symonds prayed.

Wm Rowe was excluded for drunkenness, running vastly in debt, & deserting the worship of God for more than 3 Months.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 27 Feb, 1783.

Brō Odell, Kilpin, Furness, Symonds engaged in prayer: Mary Woodward and Wm Newsman: Brō Odell & Palmer were appointed to converse with him, Brō Kilpin & Furness with Mary Woodward.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 April, 1783.

Brō Rush & Symonds engaged in prayer. Brō Newsman & Sister Woodward were received.

Brō Kilpin & Furness were deputed to converse with Eliz Smith.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1 May, 1783.

Brō Odell, Cooper, Wilshire, & Symonds prayed.

Brō Kilpin & Furness conversed with Sister Smith, found some hopeful symptoms and agreed to our request to appear this visit.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 29 May, 1783.

Brother Castleman, Wyles, Headham, & Symonds prayed.

Sister Smith was restored.

Brō Ellmore & Thorpe were suspended for disorderly walking. Brō Odell & Castleman were appointed to converse with the latter: Brō Nichols & Furness with the former.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 July, 1783.

Brō Palmer, Nichols, Langley, & Symonds prayed. the Brethren that were desired, conversed with the suspended Brethren, but discovered no humiliation in either of them.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 31 July, 1783.

Brō Bass, Cooper, Sr Smith, & Symonds prayed. the cases of the suspended Brethren were mentioned with grief & sorrow, Brō Kilpin & Odell were requested to visit Brō Hopkins either this Month or next if the Harvest prevents the former.

Brō Symonds proposed speaking to Brō Lyon as none other seemed inclined. amidst undistinguishing, the three following were proposed to Communion Eliz Marshal, Mary Bull, Frances Rush

Brō Odell, Palmer, Kilpin, Furness, Castleman, Brooks were appointed to converse with them, & enquire into their experience & deportment.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 Sept, 1783.

Brō Furness & Symonds engaged in prayer. Sisters Marshal, Bull, & Rush were admitted Members of the Church. the Cases of the absent Brethren were deferred to the next Meeting.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 2 Oct, 1783.

Brō Rush, Woodham, Newsman, Jas Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer——

the Cases of the Brethren undergoing were deferred for the same reason as last Meeting, viz the Absence of our dear Brethren who are appointed to converse with Brō Hopkins.

Thō Kilpin & John Wareham were proposed J

20th Continued

John Woodham & Tho^s Kilpin were proposed: Bro^r John Kilpin & Bro^r Woodward were appointed to converse with Jn^o Woodham and Bro^r Rush and Bro^r Woodham with Bro^r Tho^s Kilpin.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 6. Nov^r 1703.

Brother Odell & Symonds engaged in prayer. Jn^o Woodham & T. Kilpin were admitted Members of this Church. Br Symonds had spoke with Br Lyon, who said the Lord had humbled him, and preserved him from former sins, & he said he daily prayed for more humility &c. Since our last Church Meeting Bro^r Bailey departed we hope in the Faith of our Lord.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1. Dec^r 1703.

Br^n Eyles, Woodward, Rush, Cooper, Jn^o Denton prayed: Br Symonds was confined at home with the Gravel. Since the last Church-Meeting, we have been deprived by death of our Br Hopkins & his & our Sister Beeles, both of Stagsden

Church-Meeting — 1 Jan^y 1704.

Bro^r Castleman, Welsher, & Bro^r Kilpin, and Symonds engaged in prayer:

It was concluded the two Brethren under Censure (Br Lyon & Jefferys) should remain

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 29 Jan^y 1704.

Bro^r Woodham, Smith, Langley, Turner, Newman, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 March 1704.

Bro^r Odel, Palmer, Castleman, & Symonds engaged in prayer. also Robin Hoodin

Acts of the Church 1704.

The following persons were proposed to fellowship with the Church viz Richard Newman, Eliz^a Woodham and Lydia Parker: the following Brethren were appointed to converse with them viz Bro^r Odell, Turner, Rush & Woodward, Kilpin & Turner. since the last Meeting Sister Smith departed in peace & joy.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1 April, 1704.

Brother Woodham & Symonds prayed. Sisters Woodham & Parker, & Brother Rich^d Newman were admitted to fellowship. since our last Meeting Sharman Jefferys departed this life. & before another Meeting, we Brother John Sharman, & our Sis^r Reynolds.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 6 May, 1704.

Bro^r Odell, Rush, [illegible] Kilpin, Langley, Woodham engaged in prayer: Br Symonds upon a Journey.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 June, 1704.

Bro^r Turner, Woodward, Cooper, Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting. Thursday 1 July, 1704.

Bro^r Odel, Kilpin, Nichols, Symonds engaged in prayer. Sister Salisbury lately died

Church Meeting & Thanksgiving Day united, Thursday 29 July, 1704.

Bro^r Castleman, Turner, Odell & Symonds prayed, the Latter also preached from Numbers 23. Verse 23. {In Aug^t 4^th Newman was Deacon'd} Br^r Died in the Lord. Thursday

Church-Meeting: 2 Sept^r 1704.

Bro^r Palmer, Burr, Langley, Br Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 30 Sept^r 1704

Bro^r Rush Woodham, Welsher, & Symonds engaged in prayer Sister Eades fell sickly died

Church-Meeting: 25th Oct., Thursday, 1784.
Br Blaine preached a good Sermon from Gal. 5.13. Ja Coles was proposed.
Br Odell & Elkin were desired to converse with him.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 23 Dec. 1784.
Bro Castleman, Palmer, Cooper, Woodward, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
our Friend Ja Coles being at work for some weeks at Keyes, could not attend.
Widow Lavender a Member of the Church of Christ at Carlton — Beds
Widow Bird a Member of the Church of Christ at Brickstock, Northamptonshire.
were accepted to occasional Communion with us. also Br Elkin a Member of the Church of Christ at Staughton, Beds.
our Bro Luke Sibley departed we hope in the Lord since the last Church-Meeting.
also Widow Joyce our Sister in Christ.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 20 Jan, 1785.
Bro Odell, Symonds, Wyles, Br Elkin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.
Br Wm Maynard was proposed for restoration to the Church, & his Wife was proposed for admission to fellowship with the Church.
Bro Elkin & Bro Symonds were deputed to converse with them.
Sister Goodman fell asleep in Jesus this week.

Church-Meeting: 3 March, 1785. Thursday.
Friend Smith & Brother Symonds prayed.
Br & Br Maynard was restored after having been seperated from the Church 14 years.
his Wife Br Judith Maynard was also admitted a Member. their Experience was read. our Brother James Coles was received at this Meeting, he spoke his Experience
Bro Nichols was dismissed to the Church of Christ at Kimbolton at their earnest request, with a view to settling them, if the Lord so order it.

Church-Meeting, Thursday 31 March, 1785.
Brr Nichols preached his farewell Sermon from Exc 33. 15.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 28 April, 1785.
Bro Odell, Symonds, Langley, Becker, & Keyes prayed: Bro Symonds was unanimously chosen at Hampton.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 2 June, 1785.
Br Greenhood preached this Afternoon.

Church Meeting: Thursday 1 July, 1785.
Brr Wyles, Barham, Rush, Symonds, & Br Gardner engaged in prayer. since our last Meeting Sister Rowe who has been for a few years a Lunatic, was lately released from all her sins & sorrows. also Eliz Beard departed this life a little before: our Brother Masterson was this Month liberated from his long affliction, & received we doubt not into everlasting rest & eternal rest.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 4 Aug, 1785
Brr Odell, Rush, & Keyes, Cooper, Symonds engaged in prayer. Br Lilly was proposed. Bro Rush & Symonds were desired to converse with him

Church's Conduct towards Br Dunton 1785. other acts of the Church

Church Meeting: Thursday, 1 Sept, 1785.

Brother Kilpin, Furness, Woodham, W. Yates & Symonds prayed. Noah Pratt was proposed, Br Kilpin & Ryles are desired to converse with him, Jn Lilly stands proposed & waits for his Companion till next monthly Meeting.

Lords' Supper Day: 4 Sept, 1785.

As the County Friends cannot in general attend upon a Thursday at the Church Meetings nor near all the Town Members — it appeared necessary this Afternoon to lay before the Church the case of Friend Dunton a Member at Southal, but had, for many years enjoyed occasional Communion with us. it was therefore with great reluctance & regret that Brother Symonds proposed his being suspended from Communion with us till he retracts his erroneous sentiments and his opposition to the Pastor of this Church, who Br Dunton says is not upon the right foundation, nor preaches the Gospel.

he has used his most strenuous endeavours to to set several of the Church & Congregation against their Minister, & against his preaching & those principles that have always been held sacred by this Church since its first establishment this own sentiments that he has been hindred to expect & declare either by the Pastor or some of the Members of this Church are to this purpose. that we need not repent for our sins, nor mourn for our corruptions, nor grieve for the wickedness of others, because God hath decreed these things to take place. —

that the experience preached on our Meeting by his Minister is chiefly cant — that for his part he desires not the holiness we plead for — or another time, that he is as holy as he desires to be — that we are not required to love the Lord our God with all our heart &c —

he further asserts that faith is not a saving grace — that unbelief is not a sin that any will be condemned for that if a man is moral & industrious, & attends the means that is all God requires

Br Dunton condemns all exhortations and invitations addressed to the unconverted & declares it to be legal for Ministers to press Saints to strict godliness & to the exercise of grace — he pleaded in the hearing of Br Symonds against secret prayer, unless we previously find ourselves under the influences of the Spirit — at the same time & conversation he judged it probable the Apostle Paul might be mistaken, when Br Symonds mentioned a proof from one of his Epistles.

he approves of Polygamy —

he denied that these charges were all true, but they have been clearly proved.

the Majority of the Brethren present agreed to his being ~~set~~ set aside from Communion with this Church — besides the Pastor 18 fully for it — 3 against it — 10 Neuter

Br Dunton is a Member of Southal Church

Church-Meeting: Thursday 13 Oct, 1785.

Bro Odell, W. Ryles, & Symonds prayed, John Lilly & Noah Pratt were received — our Sister Nichols was dismissed to the Church of Christ at Kimbolton, where her Husband (sent out & dismissed from this Church) is ordained Pastor upon the plan of open Communion, he being of the Baptist perswasion, & that Church of the Pedobaptist Denomination. Br Nichols was settled at Kimbolton 25th of May last, that Day our Pastor J. Symonds was ill in bed therefore could not be present at the Solemnity.

Church-Cases concerning Sr Langley, Sister Dunton, Wm Sharp, Brot Rush 1785 & 1786.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 10th Nov 1785.
Brot Bish, Cooper, W. Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 9 Decr, 1785.
Last Friday eve Sister Ward fell asleep in Jesus. This Day Brother Rush, Burnett, J. Kilpin, & Symonds engaged in prayer.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 5 Jany 1786.

Mr Killyard of Olney preached an excellent Discourse from John 7 37.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 9 Feb 1786.
Brother Bester, Coles, & Symonds prayed.
Brother Langley having uttered many falsehoods in private concerning abt Brother Symonds, & having caused some of them to be printed, was this Day suspended from Communion with this Church in its privileges, and prohibited leading the Ordinance of singing, or sitting in the singing Pew, till he publickly retracts what he has published, and gives full satisfaction of his genuine repentance & reformation to this Church.

23 Brethren were present
16 fully for it — one Neuter
6 Negative.
the Pastor's Vote is not included.

Sarah Dunton was declared rent off from Sept 4 1785.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 2 March.
Brother Styles, Wilsher, Cooper, W. Rigus, & Symonds prayed

1786 217

Church-Meeting: Thursday 30 March, 1786.
Brother W. Kilpin, W. Rigus, Smith, Symonds engaged in prayer. Wm Sharp was suspended for drunkenness.

Church Meeting: Thursday 4 May, 1786.
Brother Odel, Rush, Burnett, Pratt, & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 1 June, 1786.
Brother Woodham, Styles, Newman, J. Kilpin, Wilsher, & Symonds engaged in prayer. Mr Palmer having desired leave, it was granted him, to sit down as a Transient Member at the Nex Meeting.

Church Meeting: Thursday, 29 June, 1786.
Brot Burnett, Woodward, W. Kilpin prayed & Symonds

Church-Meeting: Thursday 3 Augt, 1786.
Brot Odel, Cooper, W. Rigus, & Symonds prayed.

Church-Meeting: Thursday 31st Augt, 1786.
Brot Burnett, Kilpin Sen, Woodham, Woodward engaged in prayer: Brot Symonds upon a Journey.
Brot & Sist Rush were suspended for insolvency, and for uttering some impudent expressions.

Church Meeting: Thursday 28 Sept, 1786.
Brot Odel, Pratt, Wilsher, & Symonds engaged in prayer. the following persons were proposed to Communion, viz
Jas Arnold & his Wife, Brot Rhea Odel & Castleton were desired to converse with them —
Wm Geeves & his Wife, Brot J. Kilpin & Fenny
Wm Foster, Brot Wells & W. Kilpin to converse

Church Meeting: Thursday 2 Novr, 1781
Brot Brabrook & Symonds prayed.
Wm Geeves, Susan Geeves, Rd Wootton, & Jas Arnold were received into the Church
Esther Arnold being poorly did not attend

Acts of the Church 1786

Since our last Church Meeting our Brother Stratton fell from a Walnut Tree, & expired in a few moments. Blessed servant whom his Lord we hope found ready.

Church Meeting: Thursday 30 Nov.r 1786.

Bro.r Cooper, W.m Kilpin, & Symonds prayed.

Sister Arnold was admitted a Member.

Isaac Watford & Eliz.a Gascoign (who is blind) were proposed. Br.r Maynard & Chaniss were desired to converse with the former; Bro.r Wyles & W.m Negus with the latter.

The week after this Meeting our dear & honoured Sister Wicks fell asleep in Jesus.

Church Meeting: 28 Dec, 1786.

Bro.r Coles & Symonds prayed.

Br.r Watford & Sister Gascoign were received into the Church.

Br.r Odel, Wilsher, & W.m Kilpin were appointed to converse with W.m Sharp now under Church censure.

Br.r J.n Kilpin & W.m Negus with W.m Lyon now under Church censure.

Br.r Castleman & Furness with J.n Peck who was excluded some years ago.

Br.r Odel & J.n Kilpin with J.n Staldo who was excluded some years ago.

This very Evening Sister Priest exchanged we trust earth for heaven ——

her death was occasioned by her being overthrown in a Cart owing to the Horse taking fright as she was coming to Meeting last Sabbath. Br.r & Sis.r Cooper were in the Cart with her, & rec.d some hurt.

Ditto 1787 first Month

Church Meeting: Thursday 25 Jan.y 1787.

Bro.r Furness, Newman, W.m Kilpin & Symonds engaged in prayer.

At our last Church Meeting Brother I. Negus desired leave, which was granted him, to sit down with the New Meeting People, accordingly he did so this last Sacram.l Day.

This Day Ann Stanford was proposed, Br.r Furness & W.m Kilpin to converse with her.

Br.r J.n Kilpin & W.m Negus have not been with Br.r W.m Lyon, as appointed.

Br.r Odel, W.m Kilpin, & Wilsher have conversed with Br.r W.m Sharp, & found him not sufficiently humbled.

Br.r Castleman & Furness have spoke with J.n Peck, and are to make further enquiries.

Br.r Odel & J.n Kilpin have been with J.n Staldo, whose conversation was very satisfactory, but he is at present exercised with a Disorder that prevents his attending at the House of God.

Br.r J.n Kilpin & Furness are appointed to converse with Br.r & Sis.r Nottingham with regard to their long absence from divine Ordinances.

Br.r Bass & Wilsher with Br.r Bartram who has left us for a few months.

Br.r Odel, Furness, Wilsher, & W.m Kilpin with Br.r Langley.

Bro.r Symonds was desired to write a Letter to Sis.r Agnes Field at London on account of her having been guilty of Fornication, which calls for deep humiliation.

Church Meeting: Thursday 1 March, 1787.

Br Hyles & Symonds prayed.

Sister Ann Stanford was admitted a member.

a Letter from our Sister Field was read:
which, contained a very full & satisfactory account
of her sincere repentance & deep humiliation,
attended with expressions of a lively faith
in a dear Redeemer, and an application of
his precious, all-atoning blood;
on this account the Church was greatly
affected & pleased, of which Br Symonds is to inform her.

Br Cook, long ago excluded, discovers at
present no promising symptoms.

Br Bertram is at this time irreconcilable.

our Bro & Sis Nottingham seem
penitent & melted.

Br Langley was seperated from the Church
8 for Wk. 5 d enter: 1 Bro for waiting.

Wm Lee Bro Symonds did not vote nor speak
declared since the last Church meets
he would make no concession nor confession
for the cause of his exclusion, see page 217
to which may be added his public
ridicule of the preaching of Bro Sym
openly laughing very frequently while he
sat under the word, & once at the Lord's
Table, whereat our Bro Symonds when
addressing the Spectators, counselled them
to go to Christ under a sense of sin & misery,
& then they would be welcome to his Stable.
he has not heard our Pastor once for the
last Year, but has reproached & slandered
him & the Church wherever he went.

may the Lord grant him true & deep
repentance, a free pardon, & a new heart!
that whereas like Saul in Acts he has
made havoc of the Church of God by
avowed & violent opposition, & by causing
commotion, contention, & distraction, he might
be brought to fall down at the feet of Christ
as Saul did

Church Meeting: Thursday 29 March 1787.

Bro Bass, Segus, & Symonds engaged in prayer
by the Church
nothing was conducted, with respect to the
by the Pastor
cases mentioned, viz Nottingham & his Wife
H Lyon (H. Thorpe

Church Meeting: Thursday 3 May, 1787.

Bro Turner, John Lilly, John Cooper, & Bembrook
engaged in prayer: Br Symonds was upon a journey.

Thursday 31 May, 1787.

Br Symonds our Pastor being ill, the
Church Meeting was unaccountably omitted
but there was a meeting so usual this day
for prayer & repetition, whereby the last venerable
& excellent Pastor of this Church Br Sindrey
being dead, was spoken of.

Church-Meeting: Thursday, 28 June, 1787.

Br Cole, & Thilpin & Symonds prayed.

Jn Smith (without) Mary Bygrave, &
Eliz Kennedy were proposed to communion
the following Brethren were deputed to
converse with the above candidates, viz
Brethren Adel & Turner; Br Segus & Cole,
& Thilpin & Hyles.

Nothing was transacted by the Church
relative to the cases mentioned again & again
by the Pastor; viz Mr Thorp, & H Lyon
Jn Nottingham & his Wife.

Church Meeting 2 Aug, 1787.

Br Forster & Symonds engaged in prayer

Br Smith, Sisters Bygrave & Kennedy
were received into fellowship with us

Elizabeth Bredbury was proposed

Br Wells & Br Turner were
requested to converse with her
& enquire about her

Acts of the Church 1787.

Church Meeting Thursday 30 Aug 1787.
Since our last Church Meeting 2 transient
Members joined us viz the Church triumphant
Mrs Hagstaff member of Grandon -
Mrs Leverett member of Arthingworth
also Mrs Thomas desired communion
with us: she is a Member of the Church at
Glascow of which Mr Gibbins is Pastor,
& Wife of one of Mr Wesley's Preachers:
— a very experimental christian, and discovers
a very humbling & loving view of the
corruptions of her own heart, & her desire to
go out of self, & rest on Christ alone.
her husband is a truly evangelical Preacher.
This Day Brother Symonds, Mr Hogus
Basher, Heneman, & Symonds prayed.
John & Charlott Smith were proposed to
Communion, Br Castleman & Br Kilpin
to converse with & enquire concerning them
Sister Medbury was received

Church Meeting: 4 Oct 1787.

Br. & Kilpin, & Smith, Coles, & Symonds
engaged in prayer. they all prayed very
particularly for our Sister Symonds then
in labour, who was mercifully delivered
before the Meeting was ended: a blessed
proof how greatly God honours prayer!
Sister Medbury was received into fellowship.
John Goodman a member of Mr Fullers
Church at Kettering was admitted to
occasional Communion with us.
Sarah Rainson
~~Mrs Rush~~ was proposed to this Church;
Br Coles & Br Smith appointed to
converse with her, & give the Church an
account of her moral character
Wm Rush was also proposed:
Br Odel & Br Kilpin were desired to converse
with him, & make the usual enquiries
concerning him.

Ditto 1787 & 1788.

Church Meeting: Thursday 22 Nov 1787.
Bro Burnesso & Symonds prayed.
Bro Rush was restored.
Sister Rush "desires to remain as she is"
in which the Church acquiesced. from
the report of the Brethren that
conversed with her, & with their concurrence.
Bro Odel, Kilpin, & Burnesso.
Mrs Rush, John & Charlotte Smith, &
Sarah Rainson were received into the
Church
Church Meeting Thursday 20 Dec
Bro Kilpin, Wilson, & Symonds prayed.
Brethren Kilpin & Wells were deputed by
the Church to converse with Wm Sharp
Brethren Odel & Burnesso were deputed by
the Church to converse with Mrs Rush &
Sarah Rainson, and enquire into
a report concerning them, which we
have reason to believe is very much
exaggerated.

Church Meeting: 17 Jan 1788.

Bro Bass, Bradbrook, Wilson,
Coles, Coles, & Symonds prayed.
The Church satisfied their satisfaction
about Mrs Rush & Sister Rainson
Br & Mrs Kilpin was this day
dismissed from this Church to
that at Staughton under the
Pastoral care of Rev Mr Emery.

Church Meeting: 28 Feby, 1788.

Bro Markham & Symonds prayed.
there was some Conversation tending to
quicken Church Members to visit souls
under disorders & affliction upon spiritual
& temporal accounts.
The first Pastors Letter was read & approved
& ordered again next Church Meeting.

Church Meeting: 3d April, 1788.

Bro^{r} Goodman & Symonds prayed.

Bro^{r} Furness addressed the members of the Church, & and exhorted them to imitate the antient members of this Church in zeal & diligence as to their attendance on Church meetings &c. in confirmation of which the first Pastor's Letter at the beginning of this Book was read.

the following young Women were proposed to communion with us viz

Eliz^{h} Emery our Pastor's Daughter
Sarah Quince our Pastor's Servant
Sarah Stanford our Deacon's Servant
Eliz Shellitter, & Trus Tyso — servants in this Town ——
Mary Hall of Elston
Swannah Lilly of Kempston
Daughter of our Sister Lilly

the following Brethren were appointed to discourse with them, to make enquiry concerning them, & make their report to the Church 2 Brethren with each person

J Kilpin, Furness, Coles, Smith, Odell, Castleman, Wells, J Kilpin, Negus, Wyles, Arnold, Brabrook, Charles, Maynard.

as this was a General Church meeting notice was taken that when Bro^{r} Symonds our present Pastor was ordained here, the number of the Members was ~~127~~ ——— 127
removed by death & other ways — 12 2
received ——— 12 8
remain ——— 12 7

admitted & proposed 1st May 1788.

our Sister Ann Bester died since the last Church meeting. it was also remarked that 380 have died out of our Church & Congregation in that time ~~since 1767~~ besides Children: also 200 have in that time left our meeting, & gone to the New meeting or other places of worship, besides Children, which probably all together amounts at least to as many as now attend applicable therefore to our case is Isai 1. 9. unless the Lord had left us a remnant, we should have been like Sodom & Gomorrah.

the last General Church meeting was ten years ago, since which there have been excluded 6 — one voluntarily gave herself off died 30 — one was dismissed to another Church ——— 50 have been added in that time.

Mr Sharp was present this day, but made no acknowledgement of his offence and discovered no humiliation ———

two Brethren were however deputed to try whether he would in private conversation be free in confession viz Br Marshal & Bester.

Postscript. Mr Sharp declined conversing as present with these 2 Brethren

Church meeting, 1 May, 1788.

Brother Wilford & Symonds prayed

Sus^{h} Lilly, Sarah Stanford, Trus Tyso Eliz^{h} Emery my Dau^{r}, Sarah Quince my Servant and Mary Hall were admitted members Eliz^{h} Shellitter chose to delay.

this day were proposed to the Church Mrs Jn^{o} Palmer, Mr Tho^{s} Walker, Widow Smith, Lydia Martin ——— Brethren Furness, J Kilpin, Wilshire & Co Brother Wells & Odell, Kilpin & Castleman to visit

Church Meeting: Thursday 29. May, 1788

Bro[r] W Rush & Symonds prayed

the Church received into communion

Sis[r] Palmer, Sr Walker, Widow Smith,

Lydia Martin.

near a fortnight ago Sister Gibson of

Hempston exchanged the Church =

militant for the Church triumphant,

as did Bro[r] Arnold Breeche before.

Monday Ev[g] there was a prayer Meeting

for rain, & for afflicted Members.

the Lord graciously & speedily answered

so as to send considerable showers

yesterday & to-day. another Meeting of

a Monday Ev[g] since.

Mercer Shevington son to the Clerk

of this Parish, & Thomas Thomson

a blind young man were proposed to

communion: Bro[r] Odel & Bro[r] Rush

were appointed to converse with the former,

Bro[r] Coles & Bro[r] Gess with the latter.

~~Bro[r] S[d] Rush & Symonds prayed~~

Church Meeting: 3 June, 1788.

Bro[r] Woodham & Symonds prayed

Mercer Shevington & Thomas Thomson

were added to the Church this day.

Church Meeting 31 July, 1788.

Bro[r] Rush, Pratt, Lilley, & Symonds

engaged in prayer.

Church Meeting: 4 Sept, 1788.

Bro[r] Watford, Cooper, Kilpin, Furness,

Negus, Heneman engaged in prayer.

Br[r] Symonds was ill at home, on whose

account there was a Meeting of prayer last Tues[y]

Liz Crockford was proposed, Br[r] Odel & Br[r] Kilpin

~~met~~ to converse with her.

Sr Symonds last illness

Church Meeting Thursday 2 Oct[r] 1788

since the last Church Meeting there

have been two Meetings of Prayer on

account of the Affliction of our Pastor

and other exercised Friends.

Brother Wilshaw Kilpin, N Watts

prayed: the Church received into

communion Eliz[th] Skilsted Eliz Crockford.

the former was proposed the 3 April last

but was timorous of joining while now;

Brother White was suspended for being

overtaken with Drunkenness at a certain

time lately,

Church Meeting Thursday 30 Oct[r] 1788

since the last Church Meeting there

have been three Meetings of Prayer

on account of the Affliction of our Pastor.

Brother Heneman, Cooper, Negus,

Furness & Kilpin Prayed;

the Church agreed to request Rev[d] M Geard

at Hitchin to administer the Ordinance of

the Lords Supper to them the Second

Sab[th] in Nov[r] our Pastor having done

the same for them on a Similar Occasion

about a week ago. died our Sister Cooper

formerly Brownsell of London

N.B. M Geard did not fully see the propriety

of another Minister's administering the Lords Supper

to a Church while their Pastor was alive

chose rather to decline it for the present.

M Bull was appointed to & agreed to it he never

having had his Dismission from this Church.

Nov[r] 23[d]: It pleased God to remove from

the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant

our dear & Hon[d] Pastor Rev[d] Joshua Symonds A.M.

his self diffidence kept the Diploma of Master of

Arts (which he received above 20 Years before his death)

an entire secret from all his Friends

there was a prayer Meeting most weeks during

M Symonds Illness for his recovery.

Church Meeting 24 Nov[r]

this Meeting was called to beg of God to

Sanctify the heavy Loss the Church

had sustained

Bo and dying frames ——

Mr Clark & Mr Baker

Church meeting Decbr 4: 1788
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Decbr 11: 1788
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Decbr 18: 1788
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Decbr 25: 1788
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Jan'y 1: 1789
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Jan'y 8: 1789
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Jan'y 15: 1789
Brethren Bass. Goodman. Virgo
Wilsha. & Bester Prayed.
Mr Symonds advice to the Church was
Read

Church meeting Jan'y 21 1789
Brethren Foster. Bass Caselman. J Kilpin
prayed a Letter was Read from Rev'd Mr
Clark Informing the Church he could
not come till the 2nd Sabath in april
It was then agreed that this would be
to Long a delay, and that a Letter should
be Sent to Rev'd Mr Rippon Lewson, enquiring
the Readiness of a Minister that might Suit
this people, agreed also that Mr Ryland
be Requested to Print the Sermon he
Preached at the Funeral of our Late
Hon'd Pastor,
Bro't Wells & Caselman were Deputed to
Converse with Br. Wiles to know the State
of his Mind, Since his Suspension, & we
had a Solution for the poor members.

Church Meeting Feb'y 26 1789
Brethren Brebrooks. Watford Virgo &
Wilsha prayed. Bro Wiles was present
& Acknoledged his Sin & Guilt & Declared
his Sorrow for it the Brethren that Conversed
with him where Satisfied with his Repentance
& humiliation as where the Church also
& agreed to Receive him into full Communion
again, a Letter from Mr Ryland was Read
Consenting to Print the Sermon as requested
a Letter from Mr Rippon was Read
wherein he Declared he knew of no person
So Suitable as Mr Clark of Brampton
it was then agreed to wait for Mr Clark
Coming in april it was agreed also
to Call the Church to gether next Sabath
to Consider the Crimes with which Hen'y
Hurst of Olmptd. Late of Bedford, is Charged
with Viz. Lying, Deciet & fraud & repeatedly
& Living in the Same. Br Wells & Br
Kilpin having Conversed with him, he
owns his Guilt of those Charges &
Says, he is a Ruined man

Church meeting Lords Day march 15-89
the Case of Br. Hurst being Layd before
the Church, it appeard his Conduct had
been So Odious to ye world & Sodisgr
full to the Church & Religion that
the all agreed it was Necessary imediat
ly to Excommunicate him which was
Done in a verey Solemn manner

Church meeting April 2: 1789
Brethren Hensman. Cooper. Wilsh. &
Caselman prayed. Henry Hurst Sent
a Letter which was Read to the Church
owning his Guilt & acknolidging the
Just proceedings of the Church in Hatting
of & Rejoicing their prayers

Church meeting may 7 1789
Brethren Rush. Burnett. Bass. & Goodman
pray'd. Mr Clark having preached 4
Sabaths to us, it was thought necessary
to know the minds of the Brethren,
Some were for his being invited 2 or 3
months Longer, others where for having
Mr Baker who had Acceptably Supplyed
us one Sabath, to be invited for 6 weeks
which Caused Some Dissatisfaction however
for peace Sake it was agreed that the
Letter Should for 6 or 8 weeks & that at
the end of that, which Should be the may
only of the Brethren Should be invited
for further hearing & the minority to
be peacable & Submit to ye Will of God
Sister Redman Died Last month

Church meeting may 28 1789
Bro'n Wilsha. Burnace & prayed
Ever Lords Day Mr Clark preached
from Isiah 12 v 6 & administered the
Lords supper as he has done ye
Sabath that he came

Church meeting July 6 1789
Brethren Foster J Kilpin J Rush & Caselman
Mr Baker having been here 6 Sabaths
& the Small Pox being in the town it
prevented the Country friends coming
it was agreed to ask Mr Baker 12 week
more & it was also proposed to be
Considered wether Mr Clark & Mr Baker

Acts of the Church concerning Mr Baker & Mr Frances

Both be invited to Settle amongst us at this time there was a Caleition for the poor members.

Church Meeting Sept 3. 1789
Brethn Cooper Clegus prayed then ye 12 Chapt Romans was Read Br Cardman prayd Mr Baker Concluded in prayer

Church meeting Sept 20 1789
Lord Day Some of the brethren being Dissatisfied with Mr Bakers not having any Church thought it Disorderly to obviate this objection & not with Design of his becoming our pastor as was then mentioned. he was prep to the Church for Communion that Wether he Continued with us or Leave us he might be orderly Sent out to the ministry Br Wells Odel Burnah & Kilpin was appointed to Converse with him

Church meeting Sept 24. 1789
Brethn Goodman & Willsha prayed Mr Baker Related his Experience being Satisfactory he was Received in to Communion. Mr Baker Concluded in prayer Lords Day following Mr Bull Administered the Lords Supper NB not Clark as the Church was Devided Declined Standing as a candidate.

Church Meeting Octbr 15 1789
Brethn Rush Cooper & Kilpin prayed Mr Bakers time being nearly Expired it was Considered what Steps to take next as many of the members were Dissatysfied with his preaching, were willing to hear him longer provided it be agreed for them, Should they not hear him more to their Satisfaction, to hear another minister on trial accordingly it was agreed by a great majority, that Mr Baker Should be Invited 12 weeks Longer & if those Brethren remained Dissatisfied then that he Should be invited to Stay 6 weeks Long during which time they were to Seek out for another Minister on trial upon which Br Kilpin Congratulated the Church for Showing there Love to one another in as much as Some had Complyed with that which was not Just to their mind

Church meeting Novbr 26 1789
Brethn Bester & Wiles prayed, John Cook having been proposed to ye Church at our Last meeting, was Rcmvd into Communion Br Kilpin Wells & Easeman who were appointed to Converse with him were well Satisfied as was the Church Bro Baker gave an account of his Call to the ministry which being approved they unitid in Desiring him to Excersise his gift where ever God in his providence Should Call him. Sister Carter was Suspended for immoral Conduct Such as Lying & Deciet Br Baker Concluded in prayer 29 Mr Bull Newport administed ye Lords Supper

Church Meeting Decbr 31 1789
Brethn Robeson Burnam Wiles & Kilpin pray Our Br Willsha having attempted to speak from a word of Scripture at Stages not being Sent out by the Church it was agreed that he be Requested neist Lords Day after Service give an account to ye Church of the Exercise of his mind respecting the Ministry & if approved they would hear the would hear him Excerise his gift in prion

Church Meeting Janry 28 1790
Bro Goodman & Kilpin prayed the 12 weeks being Expired that Mr Baker was invited for & those Brethren remaining Dissatisfied they Claimed a right according to the agreement in octbr Last to Seek out for another minister to Supply as a Candidate which was Caused Some Debate & Confusion a petition was read from Some of the Church & Some of the Congregation Desiring that Mr Baker might be Continued Longer also Several accounts from Different persons testifying that Mr Bakers preaching was blest to there Comfort. it was agreed that those Dissatisfied Brethren Should take into Consideration & Examin ye above papers & that they Should be allowed to try another Minister, but hoped that ye would not be in hast. but wait to See how god may be pleased to Bless Mr Baker & if they Should try another at the end of the 6 weeks. it was agreed that Mr Baker be allowed 1 Guinea pr week During the time ye other Ministers Stay which Should be 12 weeks & that at the end of that time ye majority of the Church Should Determin which of the two Should be Retained for further hearing & no other Should be Sought after unless Something very perticular Should call out. the 12 Chapt Romans was Read also a pasage out of James Concern the toung & out of Jeremiah Concerning the heart & out of Kings Concerning the wind & fire & the Small Still Voice Since our Last Ch Mr Sister prieden of Kingston Entered the Joy of her Lord after much affliction

those friends after hearing Mr Baker a nother Sabath Examend ye papers & finding them not to there Satisfaction agreed to Send to Rev Mr Repson who after Some Deleberation Recomend the Rev Mr Graves of Exeter. Who came ye 2nd Sabath in april & after preaching 8 Sabaths withdrew on account of our unhappy Circumstances keeping himself Disingaged till ye Vision of ye Church after which a Church meeting was held when it was found that the Brethren voted then was for Mr Frances 20 & for Mr Baker 19 Beside Br Jonathan Negus who had heard Walter of them he being Quite Deaf & Bro Jamc Negus who Resides more than 20 miles off & never had Seen nor heard Mr Frances once, to these 2 Brethn Giving there Vote the 20 Brethn would not Consent which produced Such Debate that Bro Wells proposed to adjorn till the matter Could be more peacably Settled which ye majority agreed to After this Mr Baker Came & Declared to the Brethren before he Eat or Drank in town that he Declined Remaining as a Candidate amongst us

After this Mr Baker having Declined being a Candidate his friends being unwilling that Mr Brances Should amongst us all our Neighbouring Ministers who was consulted on both Sides gave it as there opinion that it would be but to give up both Mr Baker & Mr Brances & to be Supply'd by Neighbouring Ministers till the Parties were more Reconciled/ Accordingly Mr Baker preached his farewell Sermon in the afternoon Aug^t y^e 8 1790 from

and Collection was made for him at y^e Door & upwards of 10^l Collected &. & Mr Brances Friend also made a private Collection & Sent a Letter with it to & Informed him that Such was ye unsettled State of the Church that we must give up all Thoughts of having him as our Minister

Church Meeting Aug^t 26 1790 being Harvest we had our Church meet on Thursday Evening Bro Roselyman & Stanley prayed & Mr Hillyard Senr administered y^e Lords Supper on y^e following Sabath

Church Meeting Oct^br 21 1790 Brethr Woodham Cooper & Kilpin prayed This meeting was Designed for prayer only but Bro Caselman thought Mr Baker Nor Mr Brances were not properly dismiss'd as Candidates from us as a Church the Brethren pleaded that it was done before but as he thought it was not Done by a Church act. it was put Round & all the Brethern Except one held up there hand testifying that Mr Baker & Mr Brances were Dismiss'd & Done with

Church Meeting Nov^r 25 1790 Bro Walford Welsha & Rush pray'd & was agreed that Friday the 3 Decr Should be Sett apart to Seek the Lord for Direction where to apply for a Candidate that Bull Newport administered the Lords Supper on y^e next Sabath

Church Meeting Dec^r 3 1790 Prayed Brethr Bass Goodman Kilpin Senr Brebrooks It was agreed Mr Sam^l Hillyard Junr having Supplyed us 2 or 3 Sabaths occasionaly & being approved. — to Send to Mr Bull of Newport his Pastor to request him to to Supply us 6 Sabaths more —

Church Meeting Jan^y 20 1791 Brethr Furnace Brebrooks Rush Prayd & Kilpin, ~~the ordinance of the Lords Supper was administered y^e Sabath following by Mr Bull~~ & it was Unanimously agreed to invite Mr Sam^l Hillyard for 3 Months

Church Meeting Febry 17 1791 Brethr Furnace, Cooper, Mr Rush & Kilpin Senr prayed & Mr Bull administered the Lords Supper y^e Sabath following

Church Meeting March 24 1791 a meeting for prayer Mr Carey of Wellingborough being Expected to administer the Lords Supper y^e next Sabath On Saturday y^e 26 March Died Wm Kilpin who had his Dismission from this Church to the Church of Christ at Slaughton under the Care of his Father in Law pastoral Care Mr John Emery, he was by that Church Called to the Ministry & Sent out in Oct^br 1790 & was ordained Pastor of the Church at Collenend near Near Bedford where his ministry was very much Blessed, but after having Laboured amongst them about 6 months as their pastor he was removed from the Church Militant to y^e Church Triumphant after 4 Days illness & was Buried in that meeting house.

Church Meeting April 6 1791 This Ch. meeting was Called to Know the minds of the brethren Respecting Mr Hilyard Junr, when it was agreed Without a Dessenting Voice, or hand, that he be Invited one year from the 30 of April next Ensuing, & During that time if the Church Should See it Necessary to Call him to y^e pastoral office within that time this Should be no bar in the way: & agreed that no unsettled Ministers be invited to preach till we Had Determined Concerning him for fear of further Distress agreed that Brother Welsha Should Exercise his Gift at next Ch. meeting Br Woodham Rush & Brebrooks were appointed to Converse with Br^o Sharp formerly of this Church who had been Some time under Church Censures Bro Henryman & Furnace to converse with Sister Carlis, also Br^o Wells & Kilpin to converse with with Br Woodward who had absented himself from y^e Ordinance 3 Last times the meet^g Began & Ended in prayer

Church Meeting July 14 1791 Bro Welsha Declined Exercising his Gift till a fewles Times, Brother Sharp Did not appear properly Humbled/ Bro Woodard acknowledged his absent from the Ordinance was Through Lowness of Mind, & thought it not right to take his place again without Leave from the Church, which was most Chearfully Granted him & other Members that had absented themselves from the Lords Supper & other meetings for month past it was agreed that Bro Wells Furnace & henryman Do Converse with Br Coals & Pompson & Sist Gues.,

June 10 Sister Lilley once Kilpin Changed this world for a better as Did Bro Brisal aug^st y^e 18 & Sister Read after a Long & pain full Illness aug^st y^e 8

Church Meeting Sept 14 1791 Brother Goodman Bass to converse with Bro Sharp & Brother Caselman Wells & Furnace to converse with Br Pompson who was this Day Suspended for not going out to hear God word no more for Several Sabaths together, Sister Gues for y^e Same fault. Bro Beily was Suspended for Charging y^e Church with Fraud & Deceit Br Goodman Rush & Kilpin to converse with him

ofhe Last State of the Church — when M^r Hilyard recieved an Invitation

Br^o Bo^s Ingram having absented himself for 2 years before our Late pastors Death & Since & having been admonished By Brother Bass & Goodman as before by our Late pastor See page 219 the Ch Suspended him this Day from y^e Lords Supper & appointed Br^s Caselman Rush & Woodham to converse with him

Br^s Nottingham having absented him self Bro Wilsha Cooper & Brebrook was apointed to converse with him when he was Conversed with before By M^r Symonds See page 219 he was much humbled, mary Hairs of Slagsden was proposed to y^e Church Bro^n Bass & goodman appointed to converse with her & Enquier into her Carriage. this at all our Church meetings was Given publick notice of y^e Sabath before. & every Brother present this Day gave their voice & Desired that all those persons Should be Suspended from the Lords Supper.

Church meeting Nov^br 9 1791
mary Hairs Slagsden was Rec^d in to Communion with this Church and Sister Gues was Restored having Expressed her Grief & wished to have Sat down Last ordinance Day. The other Cases Left as at Last Ch meeting
Br^th Goodman Caselman & M^r Hilyard prayed

Church Meeting Dec^br 8. 1791
Br^th Brebrooks had Son Br^s Sharp & asked him to come to y^e Next Church meeting Br Bester to be wrote to not to Sett Down at y^e ordinance till the Brethren were Better Satisfied

Church meeting Feb^ry 5. 1792
five Brethren prayed, previous to this meeting Bro Bester was Restored

Church meeting March 7 1792
Brother Wilsha Excused his Gift 2 Brethren prayed
M^r Greatheed Administered the Lords Supper y^e Sabath following

Genaral Church Meeting Jan^y 5 1792
Since our Last Genaral Church Meeting in April 1788
14 Members Have Died
2 Cut off & 17 Member have been Added. there Remains a Live 128 Members
When M^r Sam^l Hilyard was invited for a year, it was agreed by the Church, that if the thought it Expedient to Call him to the office of pastor within that time there Should be no Cal in the way
Some of the Brethren wished to Know the Sence of the Church & this Question was put, viz Whether M^r Hilyard Should now be invited or not when it appeared there was 12 for it & 16 against it for the present So the Question was therefore Droped till his time was nearer out, as he'd a Year Lacks four months yet to Come. at this meeting was M^r Gilfords Letter to this Church he was the first Pastor of it also M^r Saunderson Dying words, Also M^r Symonds Dying advice to this Church.
Br^n Wilsha. Bass & Cooper pray

M^r Since the last Church meeting died Sister Cooke & Sister Wardley

Church Meeting April 5: 1792
Whereas the time of M^r Hilyard Invitation being nearly expired the following Question was proposed Viz Whether M^r Sam^l Hilyard Should be invited Longer or Sent away the Brethren Divided as under.

For M^r Hilyard Being invited Longer	Against it	Neuter
Tho^s Rush Sen^r	Wm Negus	Rd Hensman an
Ed Wells Deacons	Wm Gues	Mes^r Skevington
John Kilpin	Na. Woodham	
Tho^s Woodward	John Woodham	
Wm Miles	John Lilley	
Tho^s Bre brooks	John Smith	
Tho^s Walker	James Coals	
Tim Wilsha	Tho^s Tompson	
Rd Furness	Wm Rush	
John Goodman	Tho^s Robeson	
Amos Bass	Tho^s Bester	
John Nottingham	Jam^s Palmer	
Tho^s Kilpin	Rob^t Caselman Deacon	
Rd Bester	Chri^s Barker	
Isaac Watford		
John Cook		
John Cooper		
Jona^s Pelutt		
18	14	2

Inasmuch as Some of the Brethren wished that this Question Should be put Round, viz Whether M^r Hilyard Should now be Invited to take upon him the pastoral office of this Church. all the Brethren except one who was for his being invited Longer was for his being Called to the pastoral office

As there was three more Brethren that could not be present. Sent it as their Desire that M^r Hilyard Should Continue
Namely John Marshal
Tho^s Caress he died before another Church Meeting
& Tom Sharp he is under Ch Censure
one Brother absent whos mind was not Known Wm Maynard

The Church of Christ assembling for divine worship at the Old Meeting Bedford to the Revd Saml Hillyard

Revd and dear Sir

During the time divine Providence has favoured us with your labours we hope the Lord has been pleased to bless them among us not only for edification but we hope at least in some instances for conversion, the Doctrines you deliver amongst us appear in our judgment agreable to the oracles of truth we therefore after frequent and we hope fervent prayer to God for wisdom & direction do in his fear & we hope an eye to his glory with a most sincere desire for your usefulness and comfort, our own peace comfort & prosperity as a Church of Christ and the good of the congregation in whose welfare we feel ourselves greatly interested with the greatest solemnity give you a call to the pastorial care of us as a Church of Christ to watch over us in the Lord and to feed us instrumentally with Gospel-truth and do engage to afford you all the help & assistance we are able by our prayers, counsel and advice as well as by our readiness to assist you in every good (pastor as enabled by grace) work for promoting the order discipline purity love harmony peace & prosperity of the Church and support of the Gospel among us and hope we shall ever be willing according to our power cheerfully to provide proper supplies for your comfortable accomodation for this World

It is with sincere regret we are not able to give you this call without some dissenting Voice at our last Church-Meeting April 12. 1792 after solemnly committing our cause to God this Question was proposed to the Brethren "Shall Mr Hillyard have a farther invitation or not" for which there appeared no against it 14 Neuter 2 the distracted situation we have a long time been in and not having any prospect of unanimity in the Choice of a Pastor rendered it necessary to bring the matter to a point — we then proposed whether the invitation should be to the pastoral office of this Church when there appeared for it a Majority of three, It was accordingly agreed by the majority of the Church to invite you to the pastoral office — We hope the majority tho' small will not appear discouraging when you recollect we were more divided among ourselves when you first came amongst us, we are apprehensive had providence so ordered it for every resident member to have been present at the Church meeting the majority would have been greater

We have made enquiry after the mind of our Sisters in the Church to know if they are agreable to the decision of the Church and find

35 of them are and * not more than 4 against it & 2 Neuter

Having informed the subscribers of the decision of the Church we have also enquired whether they are agreable to continue their subscription for your support should you accept of a call to which 53 of them who subscribe 46£ p. ann. have answered in the affirmative 6 who subscribe 4£ p. ann. stand Neuter & not * more than 12 who subscribe 8£ 8s p. ann. are at present * * the reason why we say not more in the above case is because but few of the

The testimony of respect and attachment which many of the Sisters & Subscribers have given greatly encourage us to hope for your future usefulness & comfort

And now dear Sir impressed with a sence of the importunance of the work to which we call you and of the fulness & sufficiency there is in Christ to supply all your need out of his riches in glory we commend you to God & the guidance of his Spirit to direct your judgment & to determine your resolution in answering this our important and importunate request

Resigning you & ourselves to the disposal of the supreme head of the Church who hath said in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths and accompanying this our request to you with our fervent prayer that if it is the Lords will he may direct your way unto us we remain

Yours affectly in behalf of the Church

John Kelpin
Thos Rush
Ed. Wells
} Deacons

Samuel Hillyard an unworthy Servant of God in the Gospel of his Son to the Church of Christ assembling for divine worship at the Old Meeting Bedford

Grace be to you & peace from God our Father & from the Lord Jesus Christ the Father of mercies & the God of all comfort — to whom alone we look for support and by whose will we desire to be directed in all that concerns us but most particularly in the important affairs that relate to the welfare of any part of his vineyard with which we are connected

To be made an instrument for promoting the glory of a dear Redeemer and the welfare of Immortal Souls is the height of my desire and the summit of my wishes

My own insufficiency for so glorious a work has been a continued trial to you brethren who have been so long acquainted with my weakness it will be unnecessary to observe what painful confusion I have had for adopting the language of Jeremiah when he says "Ah Lord God I cannot speak for I am a Child" Notwithstanding this, fathered in whose strength I have set forth and the Saviour of whose righteousness alone I have determined to make mention has not failed in his promise of affording such supports & Consolations thro' the spirit of his grace as to teach me when I am weak then am I strong so that I would continue to glory in a sense of my own infirmity that the power of Christ may rest upon me

While praying for a deeper conviction of these infirmities, I hope the steadfast attachment which it is my joy to have felt towards the great doctrines of the Gospel may be continued and not only so but that these glorious things which Angels desire to look into may be daily revealed in a clearer manner to my mind more powerfully felt in my heart and more strongly pointed out in their practical tendency in my preaching & by my conversation

These truths which are founded upon the doctrine of a crucified Saviour are such as have been the joy of this Church ever since its first establishment and with these we at present maintain communion you express yourselves to be well satisfied may you continue to stand fast in the faith quit you like men & be strong

I have no doubt Brethren but when you consider the declension of many from these important doctrines which appear to be the life of all religion you have been concerned to pray for such a Pastor as may be attached to them and I am persuaded that you have concluded to send the invitation which I have lately recieved from you through a conviction that I have such an attatchment to these doctrines & a hope that my ability for maintaining them may daily increase rather than from any idea of my present sufficiency for the important work to which you have called me & for which I feel my self altogether unequal.

The great high Priest who is touched with a feeling of our infirmities I trust how borne before his God and your God before his Father & your Father the many anxious & importunate supplications which I have poured out for direction in this momentuous affair.

God is my witness that I have endeavoured to acknowledge him in all my ways that I might have his wisdom to direct my paths — nothing has been a greater trouble than a fear of going contrary to his will and thereby becoming an instrument of injuring rather than promoting his glory.

About the time when I recieved your Invitation several Churches most of which were peaceable & some of them very respectable requested me to go & labour among them, this rather increased than removed my difficulties and placed me in the situation of Jeoshaphat when he said "neither know we what to do but our eyes are upon thee" — With the utmost anxiety I considered every circumstance, watched every motion of Providence and prayed to be influenced by the spirit of Understanding but could not determine and was afraid even of consulting my Friends and Fathers in the ministry lest by giving different advice they should only encrease my perplexity this however was the only step that remained and praying that God might teach wisdom peculiarly to the aged I hoped to recieve direction thro' their instrumentality.

When I went amongst them as they had heard the general situation of the Church from all quarters I had only to relate the feelings of my own mind & read your Invitation among them, when this was done beyond my hopes they were unanimous in their advice and did not hesitate to assure me they thought it my duty to cast in my lot among you.

One of them who had been different in his views I mean Father Farmer of Wellingboro' when he had heard the Invitation & the contents of another letter a copy of which had been sent to M[r] Hall of Newport was very strenuous for my continuance.

After having prayed with fervour thought with deliberation and listened to the best advice so far as I am capable of judging, my own heart the an ardent desire for the glory of God and the peace prosperity & joy of this particular Church I cannot but think it my duty to accept the call you have given me to go in and out before you that I may be an Instrument in the hands of our divine Master for feeding you with knowledge & Understanding & if it be his pleasure for the conversion of many of y[r] Congregation who worship with you —

Lifting up an anxious mind and a fervent heart — praying also that you would look up and for a blessing I do now therefore with much fear and trembling devote my self to your service

in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as long as his Grace may assist me in the important work and his Glory may be promoted by such a connection.

The care of so many Souls which seems in the course of divine Providence to be laid upon such a feeble worm is a weight under which my heart is greatly bowed down.

When I have looked around this house of God and marked my fellow-Immortals who worship here the sensations under which I have often groaned have been too painful for words to express but how will all these sensations be encreased when by engaging as a Pastor the concerns of the Church and the care of every individual in the congregation must be taken upon me in a more peculiar manner.

Had any thing influenced me to have left this dear society it would have been the strong desire which I have felt to engage with a smaller society — This I have frequently observed to my friends as I felt a necessity of employing more hours in Study than I think I can do at Bedford consistant with other duties.

In answer to this my Friends reminded me of the readiness which they hoped would be found in the Church and especially among the Elders not only to council and advize but to give me every necessary assistance and it does not a little encourage me when I observe the affectionate & cheerful manner in which you engage to assist as far as enabled by grace for the prosperity of the Church & the benefit of the Congregation.

Above all Brethren I beg an interest in your fervent prayers to God for me that his word may have free course run & be glorified, that he may crown my unworthy attempts with his blessing and our Gospel may come unto you not in word only but in power also.

The Encouragements which I have felt since my coming among you have been chiefly derived from the great and precious promises of the word of God & from a frame or temper of mind for which I cannot be too thankful to the Author of every good and perfect gift — a temper thro' which by his Grace I could lay myself in the hands of the Potter and say Lord do with me as seemeth good in thy sight — fit me for thy will & then let thy will be made known by the leadings of Providence.

So far as my unworthy labours have been crowned with any degree of success this has been my joy & crown of rejoicing — and to God be all the Glory.

To him I would be still looking for greater blessing and pray that every cause of grief & trouble may be removed from his unworthy Servant or at least that whatever he suffers you may have no root of bitterness among you.

My greatest remaining concern for you is that you may be all united in a spirit of love and of peace and of a sound mind and for this cause being affectionately desirous of you I am willing to impart unto you not the Gospel of God only but my own soul also because ye are dear unto me, at no times would I use flattering words nor a cloak of covetousness God is witness I seek not Glory of men neither of you nor yet of others but with sincerity express my desire that I may be gentle among you even as a Nurse cherisheth her Children so not only we

seperation declared — Mr Hd received into communion, Order of his Settlement 229

rejoicing with them that rejoice but weeping with them that weep

The sorrows of those who have not been benefitted under the ministry of the word are still my greatest affliction & are mingled in my cup like the wormwood & the Gall

I am engrieved to take a step that may encrease the uneasiness of you my Brethren and which appeared at all consistent with my regard for the good of the Church & congregation at large for your sakes (rather than mine own ease which I would not desire to consult) I should have thought it my duty not to have continued

It is far from my mind to think you who are not satisfied have no ground of objection & mourn over my own infirmities of which (thank God) I am so fair sensible as to engage for every single fault that you my dear friends may discover to shew you that which I have mourned over in secret it is therefore rather a wonder that my ministry should be useful to any than that same should find it unprofitable

I know not how a blessing should attend it but in answer to the fervent prayers which I am happy that many join with me in pouring out at a throne of Grace & who can tell but the same spirit who has sanctified such feeble labours to some of your Brethren & fathers in the Church may also bless them to you if ye go on waiting for his divine influences and acknowledging that the work must be of God

I conclude with a Prayer for the whole body of this Church

The Lord make you to encrease & abound in love one toward another & to all men that ye may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing being filled with the fruits of Righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the praise & glory of God & now may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ that great Shepherd of the sheep thro' the blood of the everlasting Covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight thro' Jesus Christ to whom be glory in the Churches world without end — Amen

Church Meeting May 3d — 92 Revd Jam[e]s Hillyard after two Brethren had engaged in Prayr delivered the above answer to the Churches Invitation and afterwards one of the dissatisfied Brethren read a letter to the Church to inform them of an intended seperation, & to request their assistance in raising a new place of worship but no encouragment of this kind could be given to our Brethren, on the other hand a letter was drawn up by the deacons soliciting their peaceable continuance among[s]t us & in the name of the Church was delivered to them for their consideration

At a special Church Meeting May 13 th the Dismission of the Revd Jam[e]s Hillyard from the Church at Newport nw under the Care of Revd Wm Bull to the Church at Bedford was read when by lifting up of hands the Brethren recieved him into full communion as a Member of this Church & having chosen him to the Pastoral office set a part a Day for publick Ordination — — —

Tuesday June 7th 1792 was the day appointed for the publick ordination of Samuel Hillyard to the pastoral office of this Church

The Ministers who attended upon this occasion were Revd John Perry Wollaston Hillyard of Olney the Pastor, Dickens Potton, Bull Newport, Carver Wellingboro', Ryland Northampton West Parlor, Whitmee of ——, Greathead Wollaston, Geo Hampshill, Mayle Blenham Bowers Bideford, Carver Jun[r] Melbourne Wood Burrell, Sommers Wellingboro', Smith Bedford Danby Linton, Gibbs Cotton Broxton Bicknell Gardner Bull, fellow students to our Pastor but not settled Ministers

The Morning Service of the Day was began by Revd G. Smith who engaged in Prayer & read the Epistle to Philip. J Bowers gave out the hymns J Carver Wellingboro' gave introductory discourse and enquiries into the state of the Church & their Pastor, an account of which will be given below. Hillyard prayed the Ordination prayer as it is called but without laying on of hands, Wm Bull gave the Charge to the Pastor from Matt 10, 16, behold I send you forth &c Greathead prayed the general Prayer Jno Ryland addressed the Church from 2 Cor 6, 1, Receive not the Grace of God in vain & J West concluded in prayer,

in the Evening Brother Perry prayed & Dickens Preached a Lecture

NB Some few Ministers having objected against coming to the Ordination on account of the Division amongst the Members of the Church the Deacons in the Name of the Church wrote them a letter of which the following is a Copy

Revd & dear Sir as we are apprehensive papers have been sent to you misrepresenting our conduct in the Solicitation of a pastor we beg leave to relate a few circumstances whereby you may be the better able to judge of the whole affair

It will not appear surprizing that we are so divided in the Choice of a Pastor if it is considered that in fact a seperation took place on the part of some of our Brethren before Revd Hillyard came among us / as to attendance on prayer meetings and contributing to the support of the Gospel We united as the best mean to attain to unity 6 months after Mr Threnicks &c left us were gone purely that these friends might unite with us in sending out for a Minister we invited & intreated them but as to the greater part of them to no purpose and if they would not unite with us in seeking out for a Minister before we knew where or to whom we should send it is not much to be wondered at tho they would not unite in settling one

be our own (the Majority viz) 3 brethren was small but not so the (Elders & Subscribers) but whatever may be said to the contrary we can prove it to be an honorable free & voluntary one

We should have been glad to attend to any means to prevent a seperation but it is plain that nothing but sending Mr Phillyard away would do it, & was this the case the seperators are so divided in sentiment we question if one Minister would suite them all much less all of us without a submission of the Ministry

We cannot see any other than that we should be all in parties for Mr Baker & Mr Phillyard for Baptism & Paedobaptism for Moderate & with Calvinism so that nothing presents itself to our view but the unhappy prospect of contention & division and very likely a seperation at last, as to our seperated Brethren we know not as a body what fixed principle they have in seperation, to some they state no great objections to Mr Phillyards preaching but the conduct of his friends to us as a Church when they declared their intention of seperating they say not a word against our Conduct only that they cannot hear Mr Phillyard - not a word in reply, & when this question was proposed at our Church Meeting it was answered by exclaiming it against the propriety of such a question than which nothing to us appears more reasonable

That the principle on which they seperated is not Baptism appears in that the first step they took was to apply to Mr Baker a Paedobaptist for their Minister, in the scheme of applying as baptists to baptist Churches appears more policy than sincerity or why did they apply to a Paedobaptist - Baptism during all our troubles has not been a subject of division

and these very brethren (the greater part & those who so warmly contended for Mr Baker a Paedobaptist & as warmly opposed Mr Clarke & Mr Francis who were Antipaedobaptists) in our own hearts as a Church remaining composed of both we hope ever to maintain that equal affection for both Baptist & Paedobaptist Churches which we have so long had the happiness to enjoy (while we grant to others the right to think for themselves as we claim it for ourselves) allow others to do the same

Was the seperation purely and entirely from sentiment unaffected by any former division among us or from any essential difference in sentiment & had we not done all in our power first to heal them among us before ever we sent any where or knew where or to whom we should apply respecting a Minister & had we not since then endeavoured all conciliating measures to persuade and entreat their continuance among us we should then think the Ordination too soon but we have very diligently considered the whole matter & by [illegible] it before the Lord asking his direction we cannot see any reason to retract any thing we have done being conscious that as far as we have known we have done the best

Indeed this consciousness of integrity and uprightness was the reason why we deemed it unnecessary to state our case to the Ministers we invited begging an interest in your prayers with those of the Church under your care we sincerely wish the connection we have so long had the happiness to enjoy with you may never cease to exist

we are yrs very affty
Ed Wells
Jno Philpin
T Rush
} Deacons

The following account was given by I. Phillyard in Answer to the Enquiry concerning his Engagement with the Church

The Glory of God and the good of Souls was I trust the great end which I had in view when I entered upon the Service of the Sanctuary & as I felt a great desire to be made what & to be situated where the great head of the Church saw fit, I could generally cast my soul into his hands & pray to him who fixes the bounds of our habitation, Lord chuse thou mine inheritance for me

While engaged in occasional labours towards the end of my accademical studies it was with much grief that I heard of the unhappy situation of the Church at Bedford, & when the Deacons applied to the Revd Wm Ball to send me as a supply but as they were destitute of help & I was then at liberty I came for one Sabbath & repeated the same kind of Service at different times before I received an invitation to come six sabbaths as a stated supply

I had no will of my own one place where I could labour for the glory of God & the good of Souls was in my view equal to another

The advice of friends particularly my Father & my Tutor made me determined to accept their invitation & with their instructions I entered upon the important work feeling a sincere regard & an earnest desire for the welfare of this Society

At the end of this period when I received a further invitation to continue 12 Sabbaths longer I felt but little difficulty in complying I had not then finished my studies at Newport & did not therefore remain at Bedford but left it generally at the beginning of the week during this time I had frequent opportunities of receiving the best advice not only of a general nature but in relation to my particular situation with this people

Their case lay near my heart, I felt much for them & poured out frequent prayers for their prosperity but was quite uncertain wether I should stay & very much free from anxiety about it as I had no desire to be placed any where but in that situation where the Lord would make my labours most successful

When the Invitation was given for my continuance 12 months longer as a candidate I took the same steps I had done on former

The ctn account of the Church's Rise

mission — poured out my supplications & renewed earnestness at the throne of Grace & received advice of my valuable friends

The path of duty appeared plain & easy I did not doubt when I complied with that invitation but my conduct in that respect was agreeable to the will of God & would consequently bear reflection

Whether I was settled or not my greatest wish was to see peace & harmony promoted among my abode & in consequence of my labours, but for wise reasons the King of Zion has seen fit at present to withhold the visitations this has been a cause of great uneasiness to my mind & since I received a call to the pastoral office has made me very anxious lest I should act contrary to the welfare of a Redeemers kingdom

About this time the work of the ministry in itself appeared so arduous that I began to be greatly discouraged and was ready to cast off my armour but generally when I went forth to publick Service I felt my fears dismissed & my Soul greatly enlivened

There were still however particular circumstances which made me think the charge of this church would be peculiarly painful & several invitations which I received from different places while my mind was undetermined had a tendency in some degree to encrease my difficulties

I had often expressed a desire to be freed among a smaller & a more loving society where I could have more time for retirement without neglecting other duties & have more ground to hope for united prayers

Some of the situations which offered were such as if I had been entirely at liberty would have been chosen without any hesitation

But I was not my own Master & it became me to think what would be most for the glory of him whose I am & whom I serve

Upon reflection I hoped in some instances God had attended my labours at Bedford with his blessing & crowned them with success & an encreasing anxiety was found in my breast for the prosperity of this hill of Zion there was reason to fear the minds of the people were not likely to be united in another Minister — while unsettled & divided it could not be expected the word should be greatly & generally blessed to the Church & Congregation & few if any would be willing to join the Church or could receive direction & encouragment if they were enquiring the way to Zion

These circumstance being laid together I could not think of being in haste to determine without consideration & advice & prayer that I might be directed how to act —

The advice of my friends confirmed me in a persuasion that it was my duty to continue and trust that God in whose hands are the hearts of all men has influenced me at length to come to such a determination as may refer to his glory

In compliance with a full conviction of duty with a sense of my own weakness & a dependance upon divine grace I have signified my acceptance of the call of this Church and do now publickly acknowledge it before God & this religious assembly

Whatever appeared the most pleasing to my nature I have given up that I might live all in the spirit of duty tho' struck with fears & surrounded with discouragments his promise has been my support while persuaded that my shoes should be iron & brass & as my day is so shall my strength be also

That a blessing from God may rest upon me — & the whole Church I earnestly desire a particular interest in the supplications of this day that while going on in the work of God I may [illegible] None of these things move me neither count I my life dear unto me so that I may finish my course with joy & the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus to testify the gospel of the grace of God

---

The following account was given by Mr Philpin

Revd Sir

In the Summer of 1908 it pleased God to lay his afflicting hand on our late worthy Pastor Revd J Symonds for many weeks he was thereby prevented from preaching during which time we were kindly supplied by neighbouring Ministers till Lords Day Nov 23 — 1908 when he entered into an eternal sabbath of rest — from this time to April 1909 we were supplied by neighbouring Ministers from April to August we were agreeable to the united request of the Church favoured with the ministry of Mr Clark of Bampton Devon — near the close of the time for which he was invited some of our friends having occasionally heard Mr Baker from Aylesbury requested that he might be invited to preach to us the same number of Sabbaths this was agreed to & soon after Mr Clark declined staying longer as we were divided Mr Baker continued to supply us till [illegible] preach to us till [illegible] when at a Church meeting it was agreed that as several of our Brethren were dissatisfied with his ministry that they should hear him 12 weeks more and if then they remained dissatisfied they should be at liberty to send for another Minister on trial for 12 weeks at the end of which period the Majority of the Church should determine which to retain for a further hearing In consequence of a Church Meeting at the end of these 12 weeks the dissatisfied Brethren still declaring their dissatisfaction Mr Evans of Exeter was invited for 12 weeks who came & preached to us 6 Sabbaths but on account of our divided state he chose to return home keeping himself disengaged till matters could be more peaceably settled — we were now in great perplexity the Brethren being equally divided — Soon after this it was agreed on at a Church-Meeting (having previously had the advice of some neighbouring Ministers) that it

(792) An Account of the Churches conduct, &c

expedient & necessary for the peace of the Church to give up the Idea of having either of the ministers about whom we were divided and that we should be supplied with neighbouring Ministers for some months that the party spirit might have time to abate & that we might unite together before we sought out for any other Minister — During this time several of our friends who were attached to Mr Baker would by no means join with us in our Church & prayer meetings we intreated & invited them to unite with us that we might know where & to whom we should next apply therefore in December at a Church Meeting (publick notice being first given) it was agreed to send to the New Inn Hull Inviting Mr Samuel Hillyard (who had before preached to us occasionally) to supply us 6 weeks at the end of that time it was agreed to give him a further invitation of 3 Months & at the expiration of that time it was agreed at a Meeting that Mr Hillyard should be invited for 1 year on this proviso that if the Church saw it proper to call him to the pastoral office within that time they were at liberty so to do — Agreeable to this proviso it was proposed at a Church Meeting 3 Months before the expiration of the year wether Mr Hillyard shall be now called to the pastoral office of this Church which was negatived by a majority of Brethren this being the first Church Meeting those Brethren were present who had absented themselves on account of their attatchment to Mr Baker — Mr Hillyard continued to preach to us the remaining 3 Months at the end of which at a Church Meeting it was proposed wether Mr H. shall recieve any further Invitation for which there was a Majority of 4 Brethren It was then proposed wether the Invitation shall be to the pastoral office for which there was a Majority of 3 Brethren 19 being for it 14 against it & 3 Neuter accordingly a Call was given to Rev d Hillyard to the pastoral office of this Church

At a Church Meeting Mr H. signified his acceptance of the same & it was agreed that Tuesday June 12th 1792 should be set apart as a publick acknowledgement of it — This being the day we are now assembled again to testify our mutual agreement & have invited you & other neighbouring Ministers present to be witnesses of our faith & order & we earnestly intreat your prayers & theirs that the work of this day may be approved owned & blessed by the great head of the Church

Amen

Acts of the Church Friend Wilsher &c

June 21st Thursday, was the first Church Meeting after Brother Hillyards settlement when our Brethren Kilpin Brabrook Bass & Hillyard engaged in prayer — Eliz Hartwell daughter of Bro Wilsher was proposed for communion & Br Burness & C Barker were appointed to be the Messengers of the Church to converse with her &c

---

Church Meeting Aug 2d Brethren Jn Negus Cooper & Hillyard engaged in prayer Eliz Hartwell was recieved into the Church & adressed on the occasion by Br Hillyard — The following Member Friends were proposed for communion & the following Messengers appointed to converse with them &c

Proposed	Messengers
Eliz Barker Hempstone	Br Burness & C Barker
Sam l Goodman Chesterton	Br Rush & Goodman
Sarah Goodman his wife	
Sam l Kilpin Bedford	Br Castleman & Skevington
Benj n Allen Do —	
Ellen Farelly Do —	Br Burness & Stenson
James Bailey Do —	Br Kilpin & Castleman
Sarah Wilsher Weston	Br Bass & Watford

Brother Wilsher having for some time exercised his gift before the Church desired that his case might be considered, The Church were agreed in requesting him to go on as he had done because few of the members had been able to form a judgment about him some defects in his voice & language were pointed out that he might endeavour to correct them — He appeared not satisfied with the conduct of the Church, refused to comply with any proposals & talked of withdrawing from us

Br Kilpin at this Church meeting enquired wether it was thought necessary to take notice of those members who had declared themselves seperated, had got a different place of worship & according to report had formed themselves into another Church

It was unanimously agreed that the Church should not declare them rent off at present, & particularly for this reason — we had not an exact list of their names

---

Church Meeting Sept 1st On account of the Harvest & the Numbers proposed to the Church we held our Church Meeting & began worship at ½ after 8 o'clock in the Morning when all who were proposed were received into full communion except Sarah Walker who was prevented from coming forward by the violent oppression of a daughter

Edmund Goodman & Sarah Halfpenn spoke their Experience, the rest were delivered in writing
Br Kilpin Castleman & Hillyard engaged in Prayer & Br Hillyard addressed the new Members on the importance & obligation of our fellowship —

The following Friends were proposed for Communion & the following Messengers appointed to converse with them &c

proposed	Messengers
James Smith Wellington	Br Brancbrook & Cooper
Wm Burrill Christian	Br Walker & Bass
Eliz Tidey D°	Br Kilpin & Rush
Sarah Goodman Bedford	Br Rush & Henman
& Mrs Dickens D°	Br Castleman & Cooke
Ann Brookes D°	Br Burness & Wells

after the Brethren retired into the Vestry Br Sharp who had been suspended acknowledged his fault before the Church & was restored Robert this time died & Hymn the Widow of the late Pastor

Church Meeting Oct 7th Sabbath Day met together at nine o'clock in the Morn, when all who had been proposed the last Church Meeting were admitted except Mrs Dickens who is desired to wait a month — Sarah Walker who was prevented joining with us before was received to day — Br Goodman & Hillyard engaged in prayer & Br Hillyard addressed the new members from this address gave notice to the Church of Br

The following friends were proposed for communion & the following Messengers appointed &c

proposed	Messengers
Mrs Reed Bedford	Br Rush & Henman
Eliz Kilpin D°	Br Bass & Whiles
Ann Kilpin D°	Br Wells & Castleman
Jackson D°	Br Kilpin & Burness
Eliz Pruden Kempstone	Br Sherington & Kilpin
Sarah Watford Norton since our last to Hell Mrs Baker Farmer	Br Goodman & Barker

Church Meeting Nov 4th Thursday at this Church Meeting all who had been proposed the Month before were admitted with them — Mrs Dickens who was prevented then — Br Rush & Hillyard engaged in Prayer & Br Hillyard addressed the new Members by making Remarks on their Experiences

Sarah Halfpenny was proposed for Communion & Br Burness & Bailey were appointed Messengers to converse with her &c

Church Meeting Nov 5th Our Friend Sarah Halfpenny was confined this day by affliction — Br Rush Whiles & Hillyard engaged in prayer

Rob Hillyard our Pastors Sister was proposed for communion & Br Rush & Jam Kilpin were appointed Messengers to converse with her &c

At this meeting Br Hillyard called upon the Members to consider what steps might be taken for the promotion of Actual & practical religion in the Church & Congregation

Church Meeting Jan 24th 93 Our friends Sarah Halfpenny & Rob Hillyard were received into full communion

Eliz Tibbut was proposed to the Church Br Rush & Wm Whiles were appointed Messengers to converse with her — Smith a Shepherd of Willington was proposed but the Church were desirous to wait a little longer before they admitted him

Brother Burness & Hillyard engaged in prayer

In order to encourage the Brethren to be active in helping on with the work of God Br Hillyard read out of the Church Book a plan adopted in this Church Nov 13, 1750, to promote the work of God at that time afterwards Br Sherington read some hints which he had drawn up & which agreed very much with those objected to & other Members made similar remarks

Br Hillyer therefore proposed that some of the Members should form themselves into a committe for enquiring into the State of Religion among the Congregation, & that those who formed themselves thus should make a point of stopping after our monthly prayer Meeting to give an account to our Pastor & one another of the steps they had taken & what they had discovered this was cheerfully agreed to & Br Burness Br Sherington, Kilpin, Burrill & J Smith consented to visit the Deacons in this Service after seperating from us Mrs Wm Negus died, since our last Church Mtg

Church Meeting Feb 24th Br Burrill Good man of Chesterton & Hillyard prayed

Our friend Eliz Tibbut was received into the Church & was addressed on the occasion by Br Hillyard

Friend Steven Mathers of Ellsbury was proposed to the Church & Br Castleman & Sherington were appointed Messengers of the Church to converse with him & enquire about him Br Jam Maynard died since our last Church Mtg

Church Meeting March 24th Br Bass, Burness & Hillyard engaged in Prayer Our friend Br Warboys was received into full communion

Br Henman, Sister Tapp & Smith desired dismission from this Church to our seperate Union by the mouth of Br Burness

Br Hillyard observed that tho' ours seperated Friends had formed themselves into a society we had never declared them to be withdrawn & we could not with propriety act towards them as another Church till we had regularly made such a declaration, he therefore proposed to defer the dismission of these three Members & that the seperated friends should be requested to send a list of their names before our next Church Meeting & if Br Henaman & continued desirous of their dismission that such desire should be expressed by them or the seperated Church which was readily agreed to

---

Church Meeting May 2nd — Br J Kilpin Whites & Hillyard engaged in prayer

Ann, Jeff Hook was proposed for communion & Brs Furness & J Kilpin appointed Messengers to converse with her & enquire &c

Br Hillyard reported that he had written to the seperated Brethren as agreed upon by the Church, & that they did not see had returned an answer signifying that they did not see the necessity of our request but did not know they should have any objection to grant it if we continued desirous of it

The Church agreed the request should be repeated ——————— NB & the time of this Church Meeting died Sister Pratt ———

Church Meeting May 30th Br Castleman J Kilpin & Hillyard engaged in prayer — Ann Jeff Hooke was recieved into full communion — Sarah Goodchild was proposed to the Church & Br Castleman & Kilpin appointed Messengers &c

Br Hillyard read a letter from Wm Rush with the names of Brethren & Sisters' names who were unanimously declared seperated Brethren & Sisters

Thos Robinson Thos Bester James Palmer & Nathan Wodham Jno Wodham Thos Thompson Jno Smith Wm Guest James Coles Jno Bartrum Jno Tilley Jno Rush — — — Judith Maynard Lydia Martin Eliz Kennedy Eliz Medbury Frances Winns Sus Guest Eliz Emery Eliz Elliot

and it was agreed to give a letter of dismission to Br Rich Henaman, Sist Papp, Smith, & Wilson (late Crockford)

Church Meeting July 4th Br Kilpin Jon Negus & Hillyard engaged in Prayer

Sarah Goodchild was received into the Church

and it was unanimously agreed to send the following Letter of Dismission &c which was drawn up by Br Hillyard & read before the Church

The Church of Christ assembled at the Meeting Bedford

To the Church of Christ lately seperated from them

Dr Brethren

As our Br R Henaman & our Sisters Papp E Smith & E Wodham have expressed their desire of being dismissed from our communion that they may be fully admitted into yours, from a conviction of their right to judge for themselves & in their case to act according to their judgment we do hereby give them Their dismission & recommend them to your watchful care & christian affections as well as to the continued care & affection of the great head of the Church being ready to testify that as far as we know they have amongst us lived by faith in Jesus Christ & walked in obedience to his Word

Still hoping to unite with them & you in that Society where we shall all see eye to eye we subscribe ourselves in the name of the Church &c

Signed by
J Hillyard Pastor
Jno Kilpin
R Castleman
T Rush
} Deacons

NB Since our last Ch Sister Wells Baptist of Fenlock died

Church Meeting Aug 1st —

Brs Furness Kilpin Berril & Hillyard engaged in prayer — Friend Perkins of Elverstone was proposed for communion & Br Kilpin & Br Berril were appointed Messengers of the Church &c

NB Since our last Ch. died Sister Huckle

Church Meeting Aug 29 —

Br Kilpin Bailey & Hillyard engaged in Prayer Br Perkins was admitted & delivered a written Experience — Friend Knight of Elverstone was proposed for communion & Br Rush & Skevington were appointed Messengers of the Church &c

---

Church Meeting Oct 3d Br Gadman engaged in prayer & Mr Bullock of Astley preached a short sermon — Friend Wm Knight was prevented from attending

NB Since our last Ch Dd Br Jos Negus Deacon

Church Meeting Nov 14, Br Woodward & Furness engaged in Prayer Br Knight was received into the Church delivered a written experience Br Hillyard addressed him on the occasion & concluded in prayer

---

Church Meeting Decr 12th Br Goodman of S—n Br Bowbrook J Kilpin & Hillyard engaged in prayer, H Warwick of Stagsden was proposed for communion Br Gadman & Bass the Messengers Br J Watkins requested his dismission

Church Meeting Jan 9th — 1794

Br Castleman & J Kilpin & Hillyard engaged in prayer Br S. Watford was dismissed to the New meeting — & Br J Negus to the Church at Amersham Bucks — H Warwick was received into full communion — Br Hillyard proposed considering the propriety of chusing some new Deacons at the next Church Meeting, which is to be a general one

Church Meeting Feb 6th Br Shevington Cooper & Allen & Hillyard engaged in prayer the general Church meeting was deferred for a time and the proposing of Brethren to serve as Deacons — Mr & Mrs Wm Smith at the Boarding School were proposed for communion Br Furness & Shevington the Messengers to the latter — Br Kilpin & Castleman to the former

Church Meeting March 27th Br Rush Bailey & Hillyard engaged in prayer Mr & Mrs Wm Smith at the boarding School were received into full communion and addressed by Br Hillyard upon the occasion

Church Meeting May 1st Br Kilpin Baker Smith B.S. Berril & Hillyard engaged in prayer / the following persons were proposed for communion & the following Messengers appointed

proposed	messengers
Wm Cooke Goldington	Br Castleman & J Kilpin
Wm Woodroffe Bedford	Br Kilpin & Bailey
Wm Upton D°	Br Rush & Berril

Church Meeting May 29th Br Base & Hillyard engaged in prayer. our three friends T Cooke Wm Woodroffe & Wm Upton were recieved into full communion & addressed by Br H on the occasion.

The following Persons were proposed & Messengers appointed

proposed	messengers
Mrs Hervey Elvestaw	Br Rush Berril & Allen
C Wells D°	
Ann Risley D°	Br Shevington & J Kilpin
Eliz Robins Faversham	Br Furness & Base
Mrs Dawson Ashby	Br Wiles & Woodward
Hannah Clarke Bedford	Br Castleman & Wm Smith

Church Meeting July 3d Br Furness & Hillyard engaged in prayer our Friends Hervey Wells Risley Robins Dawson & Clarke were received &c

It was agreed by the Church that

Br Wiltshire who has for sometime past absented himself from our communion should be admonished & Br Rush & Kilpin were appointed to this service

Our Br J Kilpin who has for sometime past has had thoughts of the Ministry is to give an account to the Church of his views & exercises of mind respecting the work &c

The following Friends proposed & Messengers

proposed	Messengers
Wm Hill	Br Rush & Shevington
Mrs Holmes	Br Castleman & Kilpin
E. Jones	Br Furness & Woodroffe

Church Meeting Lord's day August 3d Br Rush & Hillyard engaged in Prayer our Friends Hill Holmes & Jones were received — the Church agreed that Br Saml Kilpin should after the Meeting next Lord's Day P.M. relate the exercises of his mind concerning the Ministry — Our Friend Mansfield was proposed to communion Messengers Br Bradbrook & C Parker

Church Meeting Sept. 4. Br Goodman of Stagsden & Br H. engaged in prayer. our Friend M. Crick was received into communion & the following friends were proposed & Messengers appointed

Widow Cooke Goldington	Br Goodman J. & Cooke sen
Cooke wife of T Cooke	Br Furness & B Allen
Eliz Cooke	Br Rush & E Kilpin
Eliz Freeman Bedford	Br Kilpin & Upton

Br J Kilpin exercised his gift before the Church from Matt 5. 4.

Br Base who had fallen into the sin of drunkenness, sent a very penitent & affectionate Letter to the Church with which all were satisfied but he was requested to withdraw one ordinance day that the World might see the notice we took of his conduct

Church Meeting Oct 2 — Br Kilpin Sen & Hillyard engaged in Prayer Br J Kilpin exercised before the Church & it was agreed that he should do so every week on Tuesday & Thursday evenings our Friends E Freeman & the three Cookes of Goldington were received into full communion & the following friends were proposed & Messengers appointed

Widow Manton	Br Furness & J Kilpin &c
Sarah Darker	Br Kilpin Sen & Woodroffe
Hannah Baset since our last Church Meeting died Sister of Wm	Br Cooper & Wilks

Church Meeting Oct 29 — Br Castleman Bailey & Hillyard prayed our 3 friends Manton Darker & Baset were received into full communion Br Wm made some proposals & returning to his place & Br

1794-5 Some additions

& Rush were appointed to speak with him on the subject — Jno Smith wished to return to this Church & it was agreed to request his dismission

Eben Malden & Radcliffe were proposed for communion Bs Castleman & Upton Messrs to the former — & Bs Rush & Whiles to the latter

Church Meeting Decr 4 Bs Rush Hillyard & J Kilpin engaged in prayer; the last mentioned Br also spoke before the Church from 1 2 Thes 3.1. our Friends Radcliffe & E Malden were received into full communion, both of them spoke their experience & Br Hillyard addressed them on the occasion — It was agreed to wait at least another month before any thing should be determined respecting Br Wiltshire & Jno Smith

The following friends were proposed & Messrs appointed

Proposed	Messrs
Sr Corley ——	Bs Castleman & Borrel
Widow Eliz Cowley -----	Bs Cooper & E Carelesse
Eliz Newell ------	Bs Sherington & ~~Upton~~ Smith B.S.
Sarah Careless ---	Bs Rush & Wadcliffe
Mary Allen ---	Bs Kilpin & Baily

Church Meeting Jany 1 - 95 Bs Furness & Wm Smith engaged in Prayer each of the friends proposed at the last C.M. were admitted into full communion & addressed by Br Hillyard

Friend Josh Crockford of Cardington & Gillham of Bedford were proposed & Bs Wells & Furness Messrs to the former & Bs Rush & Kilpin to the Mrs — After this Church Meeting died Br Perkins of Eastcove

Church Meeting Jany 29 Bs Brabrook & Whiles & Hillyard engaged in prayer our Friends Crockford & Gillham were received into full communion & addressed by Bs Hillyard &c —— Steven Nottingham of Goldington was proposed & Bs Baily & Woodroffe appointed Messrs

Church Meeting Feb 25, Bs Kilpin Jen & J Kilpin engaged in Prayer —— Steven Nottingham was received into communion, & it being fast day Bs Hillyard preached on the occasion

Church Meeting April 2nd Bs Sherington Upton Cooper & Hillyard engaged in prayer — next C Meeting was appointed to be a general one — & some Members are then to be chosen to fill the office of Deacons Bs Furness & Bailey were nominated by Bs Rush & Kilpin

The following persons were proposed for communion & Messrs appointed

proposed	Messrs
Mary Cooper	Bs Rush & Sherington
Ann Kilpwell	Bs Kilpin & Upton
Sarah Radcliffe	Bs Furness & Bailey

After this C Meeting died our Sister Ingles formerly Worrall — at Newton Bushel & also Bs Woodward & Sister Robins — Bedford

Church Meeting April 30 was appointed to be a general Church Meeting, when the letter of the first Pastor of this Church was read

Since our last general Church Meeting Jan 5 92 we have lost 20 members by seperation 19 by death & 5 by dismission —— and have received 66 into communion with us so that including the 3 this day to be admitted we have 150 members

Bs Kilpin Goodman of Sn & Hilly engaged in prayer our 3 friends Cooper Kipwell & Radcliffe were rec'd into full communion

& Jonathan Kilpin was proposed Bs Wells & Furness appointed to be Messrs —

C Mg after this C Meeting died Bs Marshall of Goldington

Church Meeting June 4th Bs J Kilpin Castleman & H. engaged in prayer. J. Kilpin was recieved into full communion, Lucy Gillham the wife of Bs Gillham was proposed & Bs Rush & J. Kilpin appointed Messrs — also Ann Nottingham the wife of Bs N. was proposed & Bs Furness & Bailey appointed Messrs

At our last C Meeting Bs Furness & Bailey were unanimously chosen Deacons, this day they accepted of the invitation & entered upon their office, & received a charge from the Pastor upon the duties of it After the Church Meeting died Sister Flude

Church Meeting July 2 — Bs Bass Smith of B — Revd Burley of Carlton & Bs H engaged in prayer our Friends Gillham & Nottingham were received into full communion

Jno Smith was proposed for Communion & Bs Rush & Kilpin appointed Messrs

Church Meeting July 30. Bs Bailey Walker J Kilpin & H engaged in prayer — J Smith was recieved into communion — Mary Bygstead proposed & Bs Furness & Borrel appointed Messrs

C Meeting Sept 3. Bs Woodroffe Malden Kilpin Jen & Hillyard engaged in prayer M Bennett was recieved into communion, Eliz Pickett proposed & Bs Furness & Sherington appointed Messengers also Eliz Careless Bs Kilpin & Woodroffe Messengers

C Meeting Oct 1. Bs J Kilpin H Knight & Hillyard engaged in prayer also Bs Knight Eliz Pickett & Careless were received — M Cranston proposed Bs Rush & Upton Messrs & Mary & Ann Leach of Harrowden Bs Kilpin Bailey & J Smith Messrs

C Meeting Oct 29. Bs Smith B.S. Castleman & Hillyard engaged in prayer M Turnbull M & A Leach were recieved into communion Eliz Bird was proposed Bs Kilpin & Sherington Messrs & Ann Barker Bs Rush & Radcliffe Messrs

1796

C Meeting Decr 17 Br Jones Cleveington Cooper & H engaged in prayer. Eliz Bird & Ann Parker were rec into communion Lucy Breadsell proposed Messrs Br Castleman & Rusk

Joseph Bull & his Wife of Pavenham who are members of Carlton Church enquired wether this Church would receive them by an honble dismission — It was agreed to receive them After this C Meeting died Sr Turnbull

C Meeting Jan 21 – 96. Br Bailey Berril Barker & Revd Mayle engaged in prayer Lucy Breadsell was received into communion & Widow Perkins of Elstowe propos'd Br Kilpin Senr & Berril Messrs —

Br B Palmer who has for this several years had communion with the New Meeting Eng late under the care of Revd T Smith requested his dismission & it was agreed to grant it

Jno Prowle enquired wether this Church would recieve him by an honble dismission from the Church at the new Meeting & it was agreed to recieve him

C Meeting Feb. Br Turnbull & Revd Dawson engaged in prayer — J Bull & Ann Bull of Pavenham were received into communion by a dismission from Carlton, Jno Prowle Junr & his Sister Elizabeth of Cardington by dismission from the New or second Meeting & Widow Perkins of Elstowe by experience —

After 2d C Meeting Died Sister C Harrison of K

C Meeting March: Br Rusk Allen & Bratbrook & Hillyard engaged in prayer

C Meeting April Richard Burr & Prowle two occasional communicants engaged in prayer & Br Turnbull & Hillyard

C Meeting May. Br Prowle Castleman Upton & Hillyard engaged in Prayer,

Eleanor Perkins of Cardington was propos'd for communion Br Turnbull & J Locke appointed the Messengers of the Church

C Meeting June Br Radcliffe Maulden & Hillyard engaged in Prayer. ~~Eliz~~

Eleanor Perkins was admitted into full communion — Eliz Harper was proposed Br Kilpin & Woodroffe appd the Messengers of the Church

after this C Meeting died Sister Hillwell

C Meeting July – Revd Mr Mayle, Dawson & Hillyard engaged in prayer – Eliz Harper was received ~~—~~ into communion

1797

C Meeting August Br Turnbull James Smith & Rusk engaged in Prayer Mary Henson was propos'd for communion & Br Rusk & Jones appointed Messrs

C Meeting Sept 29 – Br Kilpin Wm Knight & Hillyard engaged in prayer

Mary Henson was recieved into full communion

C Meeting Novr 10th Br Base Bailey T Kilpin & Hillyard engaged in prayer —

C Meeting Decr 8th Br Castleman Wm Smith Turnbull & Hillyard engaged in prayer

C Meeting Jan 12 – 1797 Br Allen Rusk Hillyard & Friend S Page engaged in prayer —

Our Friend Mrs Lovett was proposed for communion & Br Turnbull & Kilpin appd Messrs

C Meeting Feb – 97 Br Radcliffe & Maulden Cooper & Hillyard engaged in prayer M Lovett was received into communion — John Aspelin was proposed — Br Bailey & T Kilpin Messrs

C Meeting April – 97 Br Whiles Rusk Castleman & Hillyard engaged in Prayer & John Aspelin was received into full communion NB after this C M died Sister E Robins of Pavenham

C Meeting May – 97. Br Bratbrook Cleveington. Allen & Hillyard prayed —

C Meeting May 31st 97 Br Turnbull Castleman Upton & Hillyard engaged in prayer

Ann Base & Lucy Knight of Harrowden were proposed for communion & Br Turnbull Upton & Prowle appointed Messengers

C Meeting June 29 Br Bailey T Kilpin & Hillyard prayed Ann Base & Lucy Knight were recd into full communion — Wm Risely of Elstowe was proposed & Br Kilpin & Berril appd Messengers

C Meeting Aug 3. Mr Gamby preached at this Meeting our Friend Wm Risely was recd into full communion

C Meeting Sept 7. Br Turnbull Base & Maulden prayed. Br Hillyard concluded afterwards the Church retired into the Vestry when the case of our Sister Hillwell late Mary Cooper was brought forward She having been delivered of a Child in 4 Months after Marriage, the Church ~~after some deliberation~~ thought it their duty to cut her off & that it might be done in the most solemn manner agreed it should be before the whole Church of

the Ordinance The Lord humble us all by this mournful event, & stir us up who stand to greater watchfulness against sin & diligence in his cause

Our Friends Br Renoman & E Tapp who were dismissed to the 3d Church together with Wm Douglass a member at that place, enquired by Br Hillyard whether this Church would write for their dismission back again but it was unanimously agreed that it would be better to wait a little longer After this C.M. died Sister Watford & Sister Sharp

Church Meeting Oct 3d — Br Wm Smith Knight Cooper & Hillyard prayed

C Meeting Novr 1st Br Rush E Carelesse Radcliffe & Hillyard prayed

The Church agreed to recieve by dismission our Friends R Henoman & Tapp and Wm Douglass as soon as the Church with which they stand connected shall grant one

C Meeting Novr — Br Wm Risely Kilpin Senr & Hillyard engaged in prayer Susannah Green of Cardington was proposed for communion Br Turness & Prowle appd Messengers

After this Church meeting died Sister Cooke wife of T Cooke Cardington

C Meeting Decr 29 — Br Brabrook & Friend Prowle [illegible] & Hillyard prayed Susannah Green of Cardington was rec into communion After this C Meeting died Sister Jeffreys of Kempston

C Meeting Feb 1 1798 Br Kilpin & Smith & Wm Fisher & Hillyard prayed — Br Wildshire persisting in his desire of preaching contrary to the judgment of the Church it was now required declared & resolved that he desist — Our Friend [illegible] was proposed for communion Br Brabrook & T Smith Shewell were — & our Friend Conquest Br Turness & Br Knowlton were appd after the C Meeting about Br Halfpenny

C Meeting March 1 Br Bailey T Cooke & Hillyard engaged in prayer Friend Conquest & Eliz Coulson were rec into communion Josh Dicker proposed & Br Rush & Marsden appointed Messengers

C Meeting March 29. Br Allen Hevington & Hillyard engaged in prayer Br Joseph Dicker was rec into communion as also Br R Henoman Sister Tapp & Br Douglass who not having obtained a dismission

the no reason was given for withholding [illegible] rec from the knowledge we had of them as persons proper for our communion, the latter of them never having been a member with us delivered an account of the Lord's dealings with his soul

our Friend Thomson of Potter's Street was proposed for communion & Br Bailey & T Kilpin appointed Messengers

Br Wm Knight [illegible]

Church Meeting as prit — Br E Malden Wm Knight & Hillyard prayed — our Friend Thomson was admitted into full communion

Church Meeting May 31st — Br Cooper Hillyard & Kilpin & Wm Smith prayed, our Friends J Conquest & A Prior were proposed for communion Br Cooper & Prowle Messengers to the former — Br Turness & Malden to the latter

Church Meeting June 28 Br Brabrook Kilpin Jr & Hillyard prayed — A Dismission was granted for our Sister Davis resident at Newport to the Baptist Church there — J Conquest & A Prior were rec into full communion After this C Meeting died Sr J Collins & Sr J Bucks

C Meeting Aug. 2. Br Bailey Turness & Burker & Hillyard prayed

C Meeting Aug 30 — 98 Br T Kilpin & Allen Henoman & Hillyard prayed — Ann Abbott was proposed for communion Br Rush & Henoman appd Messengers

C Meeting Oct 4 — Br T Cooke & Wm Knight & Hillyard prayed, Ann Abbot was rec into communion Mary Hull of Weston was proposed, Br Bailey & Hevington Messengers Since this Church Meeting died Br J Cooper

C Meeting Decr Br Turnbull, Kilpin & Hillyard prayed — Mrs Dickens was proposed for communion Br Bailey & J Rush were appd Messengers — Br Rush & Br Coolman were appd by the Church to enquire into the Case of Br Wm Smith Senr, who has for some time past absented himself from our meetings & has been under suspension, Br Kilpin & Br Turness were appd to enquire into the Case of Widow Cox who has also long been under suspension,

Br Radcliffe was charged with intoxication & it was agreed that he should be suspended & visited in the course of the Month by Br Turness & Henoman as Messengers of the Church —

After this C.M. died Sister J Broadbent

C Meeting Jan 17 1799. Bs Conquest C Barker & Hillyard prayd. 2 Dictions were red into full communion, Our Jubilee was proposed, Bs Kilpin & Thornton appd Messrs. Our Bs Wm Smith having signified to the Messengers his approbation of ye conduct of the Church towards him formerly, but that he had no intention of returning as he preferred attending at the Herd meeting, was at his own request declared rent off. Widow Carey discovering no signs of repentance for former sins & others which had been lately proved against her was cut off from communion with the Church.

The Messengers returned a favorable report respecting Bs Ratcliffe whom Bs Cottenham & Bs Kilpin were appd to visit in the course of the month

C Meeting Feb 14. Bs Thornton Risely & Hillyard prayed. Bs Fox was rec into communion, The Messengers reported Bs Ratcliffe is desirous of returning to his place in the Church if they think proper, & is willing they call upon him to acknowledge his sin before them. It was resolved that two other Messengers should visit him before the next Meeting and Bs Kilpin Jnr & Thornton were appd —

C Meeting March 21 Bs Smith Shevington Henwood & Hillyard prayed. Bs Ratcliffe's case was again considered, he seems to be increasing humble & penitent, upon account of the nature & manner of his sin it was thought proper to wait yet longer before his full restoration & Bs Wells & Shevington were appd Messengers — Francis of Reynold was proposed for communion & Bs Thornton & Henwood Messrs

C Meeting May 16 — Bs Douglas Upton & Hillyard prayed — Bs Francis was rec into full communion, Bs Kilpin was dismissed to the Church at Lowestoft, in compliance with the request of its Members who have called him to the pastoral office — Bs Ratcliffe's case was noticed, hopeful signs still appear — but the Messengers were ashamed to have further conversation with him —

C Meeting June 18 Mr Hewett prayed & Rev J Bicknell preached, Bs Ratcliffe's case considered & it was proposed to wait till after harvest before he is restored Bs Thornton & Kilpin Messengers

C Meeting Aug 15 Bs Allen Bass & Hillyard prayed Bs Ratcliffe is to be visited by Messengers (Bs Kilpin & Thornton) & to make a confession before the Church of repentance for his sin

C Meeting Aug 29 Bs Gilham C Barker & Bailey & Hillyard prayed. Sister Hewson of Hempston was proposed for communion — 2 Sisters from Kensington Messengers Bs Bass & Mr Painter —

C Meeting Oct 3. Bs Bostock Shevington & Conquest prayed Sis Albans was rec into full communion & Bassett was proposed Bs Barker & Longhorn Messengers — Sister Wesley Joyce Bs Thornton & Gilham and Sarah Saunders Bs Prowle & Knight (the two former of Kempston the latter of Bedford) Bs Kilpin & Thornton reported that they found difficulties in the case of Bs Ratcliffe Bs Bailey & Hoodcroft were therefore appointed to inform him that the Church agreed he must be suspended for an unlimited time at the same time recommending to one another to converse with him —

Bs Jon Kilpin & Sis Eliz Purkiss having been at the Horse race it was agreed to admonish them by Messrs Bs Thornton & Smith to the former Bs R Henwood & Kilpin to the latter

Bs Kilpin & Thornton were appd to enquire of Sarah Barker & Eliz what were the reasons why they absented themselves from the Lord's table

It was also proposed that Enquiry should be made concerning Bs Sharp who has not for a long time attended there

C Meeting Nov 1 — Bs Knight & Fs Smith Rogerson & Bs Hillyard prayed. A Bassett A Pigeon & J Cooper were rec into communion. Eliz Hatton of Kempston was proposed Bs Bailey & Henwood Messengers

C Meeting Dec 5th Bs Prowle Thomson & Hillyard prayed & Mrs Hill was rec into communion. Eliz Hatton of Kempston was proposed Bs Thornton & Wm Smith Messengers. After this C Meeting died Sis Flanders. & Wife Sergeant.

C Meeting January 1800. Bs ~~Thomson~~ Thos Cooke Kilpin Snr & Hillyard prayed. Eliz Hatton was recieved into communion

C Meeting ~~Jan 26th~~ Feb 6 1800 Bs Cooke Kilpin & Hillyard prayed. After this C Meeting on Feb 13th died Sis Ann Kilpin

C Meeting March 6. Bs Risely Henwood ~~Kilpin~~ Thornton & Hillyard prayed

C Meeting Apr 3d Bs Disher J Smith Shevington and Hillyard prayed

C Meeting May 1 — Bs C Barker Burrell & Allen & Hillyard prayed. Sis Carrier & Sis Harwick of Hogsden were proposed for communion Bs Kilpin & Goodman, Bs Thornton & Bass Messengers

C Meeting May 29 Bs Goodman Bailey & Hillyard prayed Sis J Carrier & Harwick rec into communion Sis Watkins Hogsden proposed Bs Bass & Henwood Messrs

240 1800

C Meeting July 6th Sabbath-Day Br Knight & Hillyard prayed, Br Holborn was rec into communion, Thos Allen & Catherine Ashby proposed, Br Kilpin & Castleman Messgrs to the former Br Rush & Bailey to the latter

Soon after this C Meeting Br Wm Wiles & about the same time Sister Cooper of Copt slept in Jesus

C Meeting Aug 3d Sabbath-Day Br Kilpin & Hillyard prayed Sist C Ashby was rec into full communion T. Allen was removed by providence to a distance where it is probable he will join Br Butler's Church at Kettering

Martha Crockford was proposed Br Kilpin & Castleman Messgrs

C Meeting Sept 7 Sabbath-Day Br Furness & Hillyard prayed Sister M Crockford was rec into communion Thos Bassett of Cardington was proposed Br Brabrook & Br J Smith Messgrs

C Meeting Thursday Oct 2. Br Cooper Prowle & Hillyard prayed Thos Bassett rec into communion

C Meeting Oct 30 Br Rush W Smith & Risely & Hillyard prayed, the case of our Sister Barker who has neglected the Lord's table & other divine ordinances was mentioned last month Br Kilpin & Rush were appd to visit her which they reported to day they had done, & found her in a humbled & thankful frame lamenting her conformity to the world & expressing her wish to return to the Lord — it was agreed to visit her again & Br Kilpin & Furness were appd — Br Rush & J Kilpin were appd to visit Br Radcliffe —

C Meeting Nov 27. Br Stevington J Smith Castleman & Hillyard prayed It was agreed to deal with Br Radcliffe before the whole Church on Sabbath day as they should think proper — Br Kilpin & Furness were appointed again to converse with Sister Barker

1801

C Meeting Decr 25 Br Kilpin & Hillyard prayed — being the what is call'd Christmas day Br K preached concerning the Glory to God & the peace on earth which is the effect of the incarnation

After this last church Meeting Sister Brown of Carrington slept in Jesus

C Meeting Jan 22. 1801, Br J Cooke Horsman & Hillyard prayed Eliz Joyce of Goldington who was proposed — at the last C Meeting & to whom Br Rush & Cooke Jnr were appd Messengers was received to day / The Messengers who were appd to visit Br Radcliffe & Sister Barker were appd to visit them again — After which C M died of Sr Knight of Harrowden

C Meeting Feb 27 Br Bass Allen Hillyard & Jeremiah Ashby prayed M Berril of Castle Mills was proposed for communion Br Bailey & J Cooke Messgrs Br Bailey & Kilpin were appointed to visit ~~and counsel Sr Barker~~ Br Radcliffe whose case is still before the Church — Br Furness & Horsman to visit & counsel Sr Barker who was reported of as being affected by her State and thankful for the care of the Church

After this C Meeting died Sist Cath Bassett late Wells of Elstowe

C Meeting April 2. Br Francis & Barker Conquest & Hillyard prayed Mary Berril was prevented this evening from being present. Br Inkersole was proposed Br Furness & Horsman Messgrs also Ed Bull of Wilden & his wife & M Bull Br Kilpin & Francis Messgrs to the former Br Rush & Cooke to the latter

It was proposed at this meeting that a list of the Church Members should be kept in the Vestry — and resolved that Messgrs should be appd to visit sick members & to give them such relief as may appear necessary out of the Church stock — bringing the account monthly to Br Kilpin

C Meeting April 30 1801 Br J Kilpin & Hillyard prayed Mary Berril Br Inkersole Ed & Mary Bull were received into full communion

After this C Meeting Sist True Walker slept in Jesus

C Meeting June 5. Br Stevington Brabrooks & ~~Hoopstone prayed~~ Thomson, prayed Br Radcliffes case was again mentioned and as he had again letter into the Sin for which he was censured it was agreed that he should be separated from the Church after on Sabbath Day next, after the ordinance — Br Kilpin was requested to take some other Br or other with him to visit Br Nottingham of Carrington

C Meeting July 2 — 1801 Br Cooper Turnbull Rev J Kilpin & Hillyard prayed

C Meeting Aug 2. Br Furness J Cooke & Hillyard prayed, Br K also preached it being Sabbath morning

C Meeting Sep. 3. Bro Castleman Rusk Jones & Hillyard prayed, Friend Burr of Hempston was recd by a Testimonial from the Church at Ridgmount of which he had been many years a member, our Friends C Coston & of Bedford & E Robinson of Hempston were proposed for communion, Bro Jones & Woodroffe Messgrs to the former / Bro Skevington & Henaman to the latter

C Meeting Oct 3rd Bro Warwick Berrill & Hillyard prayed Sister Christian Coston & Eliz Robinson were recd into communion — Bro Rusk & Henaman were appd to converse with Sister Smith on account of her neglecting the sacrament of the Lord's supper, Bro Furness & Kilpin with Bro Gittham for the same neglect, & Bro Kilpin & J Smith with Bro Nottingham for the neglect of public worship (after this meeting died Bro Sharpe

C Meeting Oct 29 Bro Henaman Risely Knight & Hillyard prayed, The Messgrs reported that Bro Smith had returned in a suitable spirit to her duty — Bro Nottingham seems in a stupid frame & it is difficult to get the speech of him — Bro Gittham has by his own confession greatly backslidden & seems at present to be in a despairing state / Bro Kilpin & Rusk were appd to visit the former / Bro Bailey & Upton the latter —

Before this C Meeting died Sister Careless

C Meeting Dec Bro Brabrook Prowle Skevington & Hillyard prayed — the cases mentioned last C Mt were recommended again to the notice of the Messgrs before appd

Before this C Meeting died Sister Mrs Bass of Hogsden

C Meeting Jan 3 1802 Bro Kilpin Berrill J Cooke & Hillyard prayed Bro Hillyard was appd to write to Bro Gittham / afterwards Bro Kilpin & Castleman to visit him Bro Hillyard also was requested to see Bro Nottingham from the Messgrs last appd has not been an opportunity of visiting

After this C Meeting died Bro Bailey & C Barker

C Meeting Feb Bro Rusk Sister Castleman & K prayed

After this C M died Bro Furness & Sister Dickens of Cuthbertus

~~C Meeting March Bro~~

Bro Gittham having expressed a sense of his late backsliding state & his desire to return was invited to it by the whole Church — Bro Nottingham's case seemed (by the conversation that some had had with him) to call for sympathy & Prayer

C Meeting March Bro Wm Knight Rusk J Kilpin & Hillyard prayed

After this Church meeting died Sister Eliz Prowle

The Church was requested to look out fit persons for Deacons

C Meeting April ~~00~~ Bro Castleman & Hillyard prayed This was a general C Meeting our last was in April 30 95. when there were 150 members of that number we have lost 40, 3 by dismission 3 cut off 2 rent off the rest by death — in the same time 58 new member have been admitted so that the increase is 18 at the present number 168

The choice of Deacons was put from on account of the illness of Bro Kilpin

After this C Meeting died Sister Green of Carrington

C Meeting June 1st Bro Cooke & Bradbrook prayed & Bro K preached this being the day appointed to give thanks for the ~~Lt~~ peace lately concluded

C Meeting July 1st Bro Gittham Kilpin sr & Burr & Hillyard prayed, Bro Henaman & J Kilpin reported that Bro Fox had been drawn aside by bad company but gave hopeful signs of returning to the Lord — He was suspended for the present & Bro Rusk & Woodroffe appd to converse with him / Bro J Kilpin & Henaman were appd to enquire why Bro Turnbull had neglected to attend at the sacrament

Before this Meeting died Sister Farmer and after it — Sister Jackson

C M July 29th Bro Prowle Skevington Sister & Hillyard prayed — Mrs Dr Cumming was restored to communion with the Church by dismission from the Church at Wallington — Jno Bull of Carrington was proposed Bro Henaman & Coston Messgrs — Bro Fox continues in a humble frame Bro Kilpin & Skevington were appd C Messgrs this month and to invite him at our next Church-Meeting to make confession of his sin and acknowledge the Lord's goodness in restoring him — Bro J Kilpin & Henaman reported that Bro Turnbull mourned over a backsliding heart was thankful for the care of the Church and hoped to be found in every

C Meeting Sept^r 16 1802 B^r Skevington, Brook J Smith Brabrook & Hillyard prayed our friend Jn^o Bull was not able to come before the Church this day — B^r Fox continues suspended by his own desire for a ~~little~~ longer time

C Meeting Oct^r 7. 1802. B^r Woodroffe J Cooke Hensman & Hillyard prayed B^r Kilpin & Skevington reported that B^r Fox was still ensnared by vain company he was therefore still suspended. & B^r Rush & R Henseman appd to converse with him B^r & C Careless also was suspended on a charge of drunkenness & B^r J Kilpin & W^m Smith appd Messengers —

Friend Jn^o Bull again was obliged to defer coming before the Church

our Friend Gattsden of Wilden was proposed for communion & B^r Kilpin & J Cooke appd Messengers

Our Friend W^m Ackett of Okely was proposed & B^r ~~Rush~~ Upton & J Kilpin Messengers

Also Jn^o Negus of Kemerton B^r Rush & Woodroffe Messengers —

— After this Church meting B^r Yeoman of Stagsden slept in Jesus

C Meeting Nov 4^th The Pastor was confined by illness therefore the 3 friends who were proposed did not come forward, B^r Castleman & Kilpin were appd Messengers to B^r Fox & ~~Castleman & Kilpin~~ to 2 others to E Careless

After this Church meeting Sist^r Hallbanes of Kempston slept in Jesus

Church Meeting ~~Nov~~ Dec^r 2 1802 B^r & W^m Rush & Hillyard prayed the Messengers appd to converse with the backsliding Brethren rep^d that B^r Careless has expressed conviction of his sin and desired to be brought back to the Lord B^r Fox has again turned aside but hopes he is more wearied of his way than ever B^r Kilpin & Castleman are appd Messengers to B^r Fox B^r Gittham and Skevington to B^r Careless

The three friends who were proposed in Oct^r were received into full communion

C Meet^g Dec^r 29 B^r Pronte B Brabrooks Conquest & Hillyard prayed B^r Kilpin & Castleman are Messengers to B^r Fox who was not willing to see them last month B^r Careless respects to and is invited to make confession before the Church B^r Hillyard & Henseman appd Messengers to visit & Enquire of Sist^r Careless to enquire into the causes of her neglecting public worship

After this C Meeting died Sister Jarvill

C Meet^g Jan^y 3 B^r Castleman & Kilpin Thomson & Hillyard prayed. The Messengers reported that B^r Fox had fallen again but expressed deep sorrow acknowledged he should be cut off but could find no comfort in sin dare not leave prayer and having for 2 or 3 weeks been preserved hoped he had begun to find comfort in the Lord B^r Careless wished to wait another month (B^r Rush & ~~the~~ Henseman appd Messengers to B^r Fox), Sist^r E Careless thanked the Church for their care acknowledged neglect thro poverty, but hoped to be revived

Ann Abbott a servant was this C Meeting accused of drunkenness B^r Hillyard had investigated the grounds of the charge and stated them to the Church — at the same time reporting her positive denial of the crime B^r Rush Kilpin & R Henseman appd Messengers to her

B^r Hillyard & Henseman also appd Messengers to Sist^r Crossby of Biddenham to enquire into the causes of her neglect of divine ordinances

After this C Meeting died Sist^r Taylor of Kempston

~~A~~ C Meeting Feb B^r Disher ~~and~~ & Brooks & Hillyard prayed The Messengers reported favourably of B^r Fox & B^r Mudden & Disher were appd Messengers for the ensuing month The case of Ann Abbott was found to be very distressing there was from several respectable witnesses plain proof of her sin and yet she continued to deny it The Church resolved that unless she could either bring witnesses to prove her innocence or would confess her crime she should be cut off next Church Meeting B^r J Kilpin and Disher appd Messengers —

After this Church Meeting Sister Christ^n Carter fell asleep —

C Meeting March 8 B^r Skevington Woodroffe & J Cooke & Hillyard prayed The Messengers appd to visit B^r Fox reported that they had not heard of his returning to sin but had found him more constant at our

meetings did not get [illegible] he was in such a state of mind when they visited him that they could not get him to converse Br J Kilpin and Woodroffe were appd Messengers for next month — The Church finding nothing more satisfactory concerning Ann Abbot cut her off from communion — Br Kilpin & Hillyard were appd to inform her of it — Jas Br Ebn Careless sent in a confession of his guilt and a declaration of his repentance with which the Church being satisfied he was restored to communion

At our Church Meeting on [illegible] April 2d Rev Rowland Hill preached to a crowded congregation and of course no business was done After this Coll Died our Sister Eliz Pollard

C Meeting June 2 Br Berrill R Henseman & Malden & Hillyard prayed, a more favourable account was rec'd of Br Fox & Br Hevington and Malden appd Messengr J Robinson of Kempston was proposed to the Church & Eliz Wills of Elvestone Br Henseman & Woodroffe with Br Douglass (his Master) Messengrs to the former Br Berrill & Malden to the latter

Church Meeting June 30 Br Vegus Disher & H. prayed J Robinson & E Wills were rec into communion — Mary Hedge w of Elvstone was proposed by Br Rusk & Hevington appd Messengers The Messengers who visited Br Fox delivered an encouraging report Br Upton & Disher appd to visit him next month

Church Meeting Aug 4 1803 Br [illegible] Brabrook & Hillyard prayed Mary Hedge rec'd into communion Br Fox continues in an encouraging state Br Kilpin Smith & Malden to visit him

C Meeting Aug 25 1803 Br Upton Rusk Disher & Hillyard prayed Br Rusk & Henseman appd Messengrs to Br Fox, & desired to invite him to return to communion, as we have hopes of his sincere repentance

C Meeting Sept 29 Br Henseman Rusk J Cooke & Hillyard prayed Br Walker was cut off from the Church his house keeper being with child by him & Br Henseman & Wallis were appd to visit E Careless who was not fill up her place in the Church — A list of the Members to be drawn out, and all the Church Members who can are requested to meet in the afternoon of the Fast day to humble themselves before God & seek revival, Br Hopkins to be enquired after by application to the Minister & Church at Carlton where he resides

The List of Members read — and after Hillyard's letter 7 members cited 2 cut off several [illegible] Oct 19 being a day appointed for a national fast The Church continued to humble itself before God after the public service was concluded Br Brabrooke & Kilpin prayed in the congregation Br Bass and Hillyard with the Church & it was reported that E Careless had sung vain songs as well as neglected our Assemblies but she denying it Br Hillyard Henseman & Robt Smith appd to investigate the matter — Br Hillyard intending to preach at Carlton next week he was appd to admonish Br Hopkins against strong drink to which we are informed he has been too much addicted — Br Thos Kilpin & Ed Jones to visit Sist Crasely who has neglected attending the ordinances Br J Kilpin & Rush to visit Sist Stewartson on the like account — Br Wm Smith & Malden to visit Br Fox who was present with us to day to humble himself with us before the Lord An evil report being raised of him and Sister Stock it was investigated and found to be in the opinion of the Church to be an evil and ungrounded slander It was requested that letters should be written to our members at a distance and that from themselves or others we should endeavour to learn the manner of their conversation

The Church recommended more frequent visits and free conversation to one another more regular attendance on all our meetings of prayer & to be more diligent in encouraging serious persons to enter the Church

C Meeting Oct 27 Br Cooper Wm Smith & Hillyard prayed, the account concerning E Careless was not confirmed upon investigation she denying the charge & no one positively affirming it, she is admonished to be watchful & regular in religious duties the rest of the Friends had not been visited except Br Fox who is in a hopeful state Br Hillyard could not see Br Hopkins at Carlton Sr Butt of Goldington proposed for communion Br Henseman & Woodroffe Messengrs —

C Meeting November 25 Br Kilpin Sen Malden & Hillyard prayed Sr Butt was rec'd into communion Mrs Ann Cheers of Bedford proposed, Br T Kilpin & Messengrs — Br Hopkins acknowledged his error, was thankfully to the Church for admonition & desired to repent — Br Fox is an encouraging state, did to be persuaded to return to communion which he declines on account of his great unworthiness but Crasely pleads her family and the lowness of her mind and it is agreed that she should be visited exhorted and encouraged

A letter drawn up by the Pastor for the members who reside at a distance was read and approved by the Ch

C Meeting Dec^r 22^d B^r Cooper, Conquest, & Hilliard prayed Sist^r Ann Norris was rec^d into communion Mary Bassett of Tenbch & Sarah Pierson of Watton were proposed B^r Rush & Castleman Mess^rs to the former B^r R Hensman & W^m Smith to the latter / B^r Castleman & Kilpin were appd to converse with B^r Fox, who seems to be humbled for his sin and to be kept from returning to communion by a sense of his unworthiness /

B^r Jn^o Prowle being ensnared into the sin of drunkenness confessed his fault with much contrition at this meeting it was judged for the honor of religion that he should be set aside as for one sabbath and afterwards be restored to the priviledg of full communion B^r Ed Bull having fallen into the same sin & expressed great sorrow to B^r Hensman, B^r Hensman & Kilpin were requested to inform him that he was suspended for one sabbath and desired to confess his fault before the Church next meeting

After this C Meeting our Sister Mary Aitken fell asleep in Jesus

C Meeting Jan 19 1804 B^r Castleman J Kilpin & H prayed B^r Ed Bull & B^r Fox confessing their sin before the Church were restored to full communion - Mary Bassett was received — Sarah Pierson was detained by the affliction of a child

C Meeting Feb 14 B^r J^n Smith J Cooke & Hilliard prayed S Pierson joined in full communion

After this Meeting B^r Ann v Ryd of Haywood left in Jesus

C Meeting Mar 29 B^r Kilpin Sen^r Brabrook Upton & C H prayed Wm Hatter of Kimpton & Sarah Eden of Bicton were proposed B^r R Hensman & Douglass Mess^rs to the former & B^r J Kilpin & W^m Smith to the latter, the latter Sam^l Whiles lately a member of the Ind^t Meeting after having attended with us 12 months & no a hearer of the word to be rec^d into full communion B^r J Kilpin & B^r Hensman were appointed to him & to the pastor of the church to which he formerly belongs

We are afraid of new trouble with B^r Fox B^r J Kilpin & Upton were desired to enquire into the same & report respecting his return to ind^t

C Meeting B^r Kilpin Sen^r B^r Knight & H prayed Mary Hatter was rec^d into full communion the other two cases were deferred for a time — The Mess^rs appointed respecting Sam^l Whiles proposed that B^r Hensman the Minister of the New Meeting wd state his reasons for not receiving him and strongly objecting to our receiving him, But as these reasons had been seen and thought insufficient by some of our Brethren to whom S Whiles had shewn a letter written to him in which they were contained Bro^r Hensman proposed that without further investigation S Whiles should relate his experience next Church Meeting and if approved be rec^d into communion

for this Motion there were 20 brethren for further investigation — 8 and 2 or 3 were neuter

B^r Fox having fallen into sin it was proposed to cut him off, but as he seems for the last fortnight humbled and prays with his family the Church consented to wait another month to make trial of him

Hann Case of Elvestowe & Eliz Kilpin of Bedford, were proposed for communion B^r Berrill & W^m Knight Mess^rs to the former B^r W^m Smith & R Hensman to the latter

C Meeting May 31^st The Rev^d M^r Denny of Long Buckby, & Rev J. Tysoe of Cornwall & B^r H prayed Eliz Kilpin & Ann Case were rec^d into communion Charlotte Field of Bedford was proposed B^r Rush & J Cooke Mess^rs — S Whiles, as there is some expectation of his obtaining a dismission from the 2^nd Church, did not come forward, B^r Hilliard & J Kilpin were appd Mess^rs to B^r Fox

C Meeting June 27 B^r J Kilpin & Hilliard prayed - Sister C Field was rec^d into communion & Sarah Newell Dau^r of Sister Newell was proposed, B^r Malden & Upton Mess^rs —

After this C Meeting Bro^r Wells, Bro^r Woodroffe & Sister Dawson, were called into the Eternal world —

C Meeting July 26, B^r J Smith Cooper, & Hilliard prayed - Sarah Newell was rec^d into communion, Susannah Ashwell, & Eliz Turner both of G. Barford were proposed B^r Cooper & J Cooke Mess^rs to the former B^r Kilpin & Hensman to the latter B^r J Kilpin & Hensman were appd to visit Sister Hanson who was suspended for excess in drinking B^r H Kilpin & Malden Upton to visit B^r Fox

After this Church Meeting Sister C Fields & Sarah Cooke Church were admitted in Jesus

C Meeting Aug 31. B^r Kilpin in the chair B Cooke & H prayed Susannah Ashwell & Eliz Turner waited till another Meeting before they related their experience B^r & Sis^r Fox & Sis^r Hanson as before B^r H Kilpin & Smith to visit the former B^r Kilpin & Hensman the latter

C Meeting Sept 4 B^r Malden Brabrook & H prayed Susannah Ashwell & Eliz Turner were rec^d into full communion, Eliz Hatton of Stanford was proposed Bro^r Rush & W^m Smith Mess^rs — B^r Rush & J Kilpin were appointed to admonish Bro^r Upton of a spirit of covetousness which appeared in some dealings that were not of good report, though it did not appear evident that there was intended fraud B^r Malden & J Kilpin to visit B^r Fox of whom the report this month was pleasing

After this Meeting B^r J Hatton left in Jesus

Meeting Nov. B^r Ashett Prowle & Hillyard prayed Sister Hathorn was rec^d into full communion - S. Gibbs was proposed / Messengers B^r Rush & Upton) B^r Malden & Hensman to visit B^r Thos -

After this meeting B^r Goodman of Elstowe slept in Jesus.

C Meeting Dec^r 3. B^r Warwick Castleman & Hillyard prayed. Sister S. Gibbs was rec^d into full communion B^r T. Fox having again returned to his wickedness, was with great sorrow and humiliation on the Church's part excluded - The Pastor recommended the Church to pray for direction in the choice of Deacons.

C Meet^g Jan 1805. B^r Kilpin Sen^r J Cooke & Disher prayed, The Deacons the nominated the following Brethren as suitable persons to join with them in that office Bro^r Kilpin R Hensman E Malden & James Smith the Church were requested to take a month to consider of them nominated before they proceeded to vote

E Coles of Bedford and Sarah Goodwin of Kempston were proposed to the Church B^r Prowle & Malden Messengers to the former B^r Rush & B^r Hensman to the latter

---

C Meet^g Feb 1805 B^r Prowle Douglass and H. prayed. B^r The Church unanimously decided for Deacons the 4 Brethren nominated last month and they all in a very humble and affectionate manner accepted the office except Bro^r Horne who desired another month to consider of it

E Coles & Sarah Goodwin were received into communion

After this meeting our B^r Cotterell one of our eldest members was chosen a Deacon in the Church sweetly fell asleep in Jesus

---

C Meeting March 1805

B^r J Cooke Cooper & H prayed Eliz Asplin of Kempston was proposed B^r Rush and J Smith Messengers

---

C Meeting April 4. 1805

B^r Brabrooks Carlisle & Hillyard prayed Sister Eliz Asplin was rec^d into full communion Bro^r Smith of Castle Street was proposed

---

Bro^r Rush & Upton Messengers & B^r T. Kilpin & R Hensman were appointed to visit Mary Henson

---

C Meeting May 3 1805 B^r Allen prayed Sister Smith of Castle Street was rec^d into full communion Stewards Rec^d D Bagnall of Gosport preached

after this C Meeting Sister S. Upton and Stewartson slept in Jesus

---

C Meeting May 28 B^r J Cooke, Burr, Prowle & Hillyard prayed - No particular account of Mary Henson

---

C Meeting July 4. B^r J Kilpin J Smith Brabrooks & H. prayed. The Messengers reported that M Henson seemed humbled for her crime and had been preserved from it ever since she was reproved B^r Rush and Upton to visit her Wid^w Fisher of Kempston was proposed B^r J Smith and Hensman Messengers - Sarah Byaway of Wootton B^r Wm Smith & T Cooke Wid^w Bailey B^r T Kilpin & Rush -

---

Church Meeting July 25 B^r Wm Priestly and B. Allen & Hillyard prayed B^r Fisher Sarah Byaway & Mary Bailey were rec^d into communion

---

Church Meeting Aug 29 B^r Brabrook Carpenter and Hensman &c H prayed It was resolved that B^r Hillyard Hensman Kilpin and any other members who chose should meet in the vestry to morrow evening to inquire into the truth of reports unfavourable to the character of our Sister Anne Stock

---

Church C Meeting, Oct 3. B^r Cooke Rush Berrill & Hallyard prayed

two days before this C. Meeting died our Sister Bass of Stevenston after Sister Thomas

---

C Meeting Nov^r 7 1805 B^r Vegus. T Kilpin J Smith & Hillyard prayed

---

C Meeting Nov^r 28 1805 Bro^r Cooke Prowle Malden & Hillyard prayed Eliz Gibbs of Stagsden was proposed for communion Bro^r Jo Smith & Jno Hathorn Messengers

---

C Meeting Dec^r Bro^r H Hensman & Hillyard prayed Eliz Gibbs was received

C Meeting Jan 29 180[illegible] Cooke & Upton and Hillyard pr[illegible] & C. Beth Stevens was proposed Brethren [illegible] & T. Kilpin Messengers

---

C. Meeting. Feb. B^r J Smith & Hillyard prayed Eliz^th Stevens received

---

C Meeting April 3. B^r Burr Rush & Cooper prayed. B^r T Kilpin & Hensman were appointed to visit Sister Mary Henson B^r Rush & Malden to visit B^r & Sister Shevington who have not attended of late to fill up the places vacated by B^r Hensman & Upton were appointed Messengers to Elizabeth Hutchins of Biddenham she was proposed for communion and B^r Rush & Malden Messengers to Harriet Bowles who was also proposed Sister Sarah Crosely who had long neglected divine ordinances, having returned to them confessed her former backsliding and her wish to return to the Lords table which the Church invited her to d

1807

C Meeting May 3. Brs Gillham and Hilliard prayed Sister Bende & Eliz Hutchins were rec. The Messengers reported that Bro Sivington thinking himself slighted by the Church wished to be considered as not desiring communion but Bros Hilliard & Burrill were appointed to visit him again, Brs Hilliard and Rush were also appointed to visit Mary Henson

C Meeting June 1. Bs J Smith & Brabrooke & Hilliard prayed. Reported that Bs Sivington still continues desirous of withdrawing but has no wish to be dismissed the Messrs advised him to continue for a time regularly acted but it should be in his own spirit. Mary Henson appeared humble and hopes in time to be encouraged to fill her place

C Meeting July 13 J Hilgrin preached Ann Watson was proposed B Henson & Upton Messrs

After this C Meeting Sister M Bellows & Eliz Whitnell fell asleep

C Meeting May 18 Cooper & J Hilgrin H. prayed Ann Watson was rec'd into full communion

C Meeting in Sept 1st Ball of London preached

C Meeting Oct 20 Brs Burrill Longmore & Pratt & Hilliard prayed Brs Henson & Brs Ball of Goldington were charged with intemperance. Brs Rush & Henson to persuade the latter & Hilgrin & Watson the former to confess their sin - Brs Hilliard to speak to Ch Ann Stock & all Henson, Brs Hilliard & Wm Jones to Kimpton, Brs Fisher declared himself cut off

C Meeting Nov 20th Brs J Prowse & Hilgrin prayed Brs Kimpton declared cut off Brs Henson & Rush upon confession of their private sins restored - Jn Henson is desirous of returning but discouraged by a sight of her unworthiness - Ann Stock was not in the way when called upon - Elizth Lockey was proposed for communion Brs Rush & Jn Hilgrin Messengers

C Meeting Dec 18 Brs Brown & Hilgrin & Hilliard prayed Eliz Lake was rec'd Mary Henson is much in the same state as last month, Ann Stock has withdrawn from regulence from some reports to her discredit the truth of which she denies but acknowledges she has been imprudent & passions for which she desires to repent

Brixton Farm Church was proposed for communion Brs Rush & Henson Messengers

1807

C Meeting Jan 16. Brs Allen J Cocke & Hilgrin prayed Brs J Church was received into communion - Wm Jones and Wm Godden both of Wilden were proposed Brs Prowle & J Cocke Messengers to the former Brs Bull & J Hilgrin to the latter

Br Bassett had been found guilty of drunkenness for which he was charged by Brs Hilliard & Prowle and confessed his sin but some other circumstances respecting his conduct induced the Church to appoint him Brs Hilliard & Henson to visit him, Brs Hilliard & Allen were requested to visit our late Sister Hepworth who was cut off some years since

C Meeting Feby 20 1807 Brs Prowle & Hilliard prayed Brs Jones & Godden were rec'd into communion Br Bassett continues in an undesirable state Brs Prowle & Brabrookes appointed to visit him

C Meeting March 20 Brs J Smith Fisher Malden Allen & Hilgrin prayed - no satisfactory accounts of Br Bassett Br Hilliard requested to write to him and endeavour to obtain a meeting - Sister Jane Watford of Walden proposed Brs J Smith & Henson Messengers

C Meeting April 24 1807 Brs Jones & Wm Knight & Hilliard prayed Br Watford rec'd into communion Friend Jno Nicholls & Nathan Hewlett proposed Brs Henson & Allen Messrs to the former Brs J Hilgrin & Watson to the latter, Brs Bassett wishes the Church to wait another month

C Meeting March 29 Brs Wm Risely and Hilliard prayed. Br Nathan Hewlett was rec'd into full communion, J Nicholls wished to wait another month Brs Bassett also wished us to wait longer but the Church desired the Pastor to inform him that unless we could have some evidence of his repentance we did think it our duty to separate him next Mee'tg Eliz Smith of Copple and Eliz Gill of Living of Bedford were proposed

This was a general Church Meet'g and the Pastor read the last Ch of the rise of the Church and the Letter of Ch Gifford

Since our last General Meet'g we have lost by death 16, one was cut off and two declared rent off during the same period thirty have been added so that through the Lords goodness we have 14 more members than at that period the Lord Grant us grace to stand fast in him and the power of his might

C Meeting June 30th Brs Pratt & Hilliard prayed Br Nicholls was joined to the Church and also Sisters Eliz Smith and Eliz James Kitchener & Eliz Kitchener were proposed Brs J Hilgrin & Watson Messengers to the former Brs Rush & Henson to the latter

C Meet'g July 31. Brs Burr & Allen & H prayed James & Eliz Kitchener joined the Church Brs Brabrooke & Prowle to visit J Bassett

1807 & 1808

Church Meeting Aug. Brot Malden Hensman & Hillyard prayed & Brot Bassett excluded —

After this C.M. Sisters Hedge and Case of Elstowe and Eliz Thomson of Bedford were called away from the Church below and we hope removed to the Church above

C.M. Oct.r 2 Br Risely, Douglass, & Newlett K. prayed Amelia Davis late St Mary's Bedford was proposed Br Rush and Malden Messengers, Br Jones by letter confessed that he had fallen into the sin of drunkeness, as he appeared penitent and humble The Church appd Br Francis and Rush as Messengers to inform him that he is suspended from the communion for one month and that if he walks orderly he may afterwards return

C.M. Nov 5th Brot Warwick Conquest and H. prayed Sister Hanson was restored to communion desiring a written confession of her backsliding and of her desire to love the Lord and walk in his way Amelia Davis was rec.d with communion

C.M. Dec.r 11 Br Thomson Cooke Allen & H prayed Br Prowle and Conquest were requested to invite Brot Nottingham to the Lords table, Br Prowle & Hillyard to inquire why Sist.r Aitken absents herself from it

C.M. Jan.y 2 1808 Brot Cooper Rush and Graham prayed Eliz Bass of Stagsden was proposed for communion Brot J Smith & Upton Mess.rs

No particular account from Brot Nottingham and Sister Aitken the latter suspended still we can have no satisfaction from her

C Meeting Feb.y 6 Brot Conquest J. Smith & H prayed Eliz Bass was rec.d into communion Brot Nottingham confessed his backslidings and shewed how the Lord had brought him again into his ways He was rec.d with great pleasure by the Church Sister Aitken is still suspended & Brot H & Prowle appd to visit her

After this C Meeting our Sister Ann Negus departed this life

C Meeting Mar.ch 4 Brot Nottingham Cooke & Hillyard prayed Sister Aitken acknowledged herself guilty of excessive passion and hopes the Church will wait and pray for her — Mr James of Bedford was proposed Brot Allen & Upton Mess.rs

C Meeting ~~Mar.ch 30~~ April 6 Brot Hillyard prayed Brot Wm Risely was dismissed to the Church at Potton End Sister James was rec.d into full communion. Before this Church Meeting Sister Eliz Smith departed hence with a happy reliance on the Saviour also Mr Graham an occasional Communicant with us and Member of the Congregational Church at Oxford He bequeathed one hundred pounds to be reserved in the hands of Deacons for the Widow of any Pastor that

C.M. April 29 Brot Prowle Thomson and Hillyard prayed Ann Wales was proposed for communion Brot Rush & Hensman Mess.rs

C Meeting June Ann Wales was admitted into full communion

C Meeting July ~~omitted~~ omitted after this and the preceding C Meeting to set down who prayed

C Meeting ~~Aug. 3rd 2~~ July 29 Mr Chase preached —

C Meeting Sep.r 2: Br Smith Cooper Pilgrim & Hillyard prayed

C Meeting Sep.r 29 Br Allen Watford Knight & Hillyard prayed Mr James Palmer of Bedford and Eliz Warner of Kempston proposed for communion Br J Smith & Watford Messengers to the latter and Br Allen & Rush to the former

C Meeting Oct 29 Brot Prowle Robinson & Hillyard prayed — Br James Palmer & Eliz Warner ~~of Bedford~~ were received into communion Mr & Mrs Morrell were proposed Br J Pilgrim & Malden Messengers & Widow Chapman of Stevington Br Rush & Hensman Messengers —

C Meeting Nov 25 Brot J Pilgrim Gilham and Hillyard prayed — Sister Chapman was rec.d into communion Mr & Mrs Morrell wait a little longer

a little before this C Meet.g Brot J Bradbrooke left a clause —

C Meeting Dec.r 30 Br Douglass Warwick Hensman & H. prayed — Jno Chamberlain and Wm Harvey were proposed Br Rush and Malden Br Hensman & Upton Mess.rs

C Meet.g Jan.y 26 Br J. Smith Malden & Hillyard prayed Br Wm Harvey & J Chamberlain were rec.d into communion Br Hensman & J Pilgrim appd to visit Potton & Stock

C Meeting Feb.y 23. Br Cooke Newlett and J Pilgrim & Wm Upton prayed. Mary Archer of Stevington proposed for communion Br J Malden & Upton Mess.rs Sister Stock approved of the Churches dealings —

C Meeting March Sister Stock was restored into full communion

April 6 may no particular business committed to set down who engaged

1809

June 2 Bᵉ J Smith & Nottingham and Hillyard prayed. Sister Mary Fisher was received into communion. Pleasing intelligence has been lately given concerning Sister Aitken

July. Bᵉ Hillyard prayed Sister Aitken was restored Eliz Fisher of Kempstone was proposed Bᵉ J Smith & Malden Messᵍʳˢ.

July 28 Bᵉ Fisher & Hillyard prayed Sister Eliz wife of Bᵉ Fisher was recᵈ into full communion Mary Gore was proposed Bᵉ Newman & J Smith Messᵍʳˢ

Augᵗ Sept 1 Sister Gore of Kempstone was recᵈ into full communion Bᵉ J Smith & Hillyard prayᵈ

Octᵉ 6. Bᵉ Knight Newman Allen & Hillyard prayed Ann Prowle of and Eliz Crockford both of Carrington were proposed Bᵉ Newman Conquest & Nottingham Messᵍʳˢ.

Nov 3 1809 Bʳᵉ Prowle, Douglass, & H. prayed. Sister Ann Prowle & Elizabeth Crockford were admitted into full communion Mʳˢ Wells Sarah Carter & John Harper of Bedford & John Smith of Biddenham were proposed for communion Bᵉ J Kilpin & R Newman Messᵍʳˢ to the first Bᵉ Rush & Gittham to the 2ⁿᵈ Bᵉ Malden & Barrill to ᵍᵉ 3ᵈ & Bᵉ J Smith and Douglass to the last

Decᵉ Bᵉ Malden & Hillyard prayed Sister Wells & Carter of Bedford Bʳᵉ Harper of Bedford and Bᵉ Smith of Biddenham were recᵈ into full communion

Sister Parker of Clapham fell asleep before this Coll. and after it Sister Pierson of Wooton

Janʸ 12 1810 Bᵉ Allen Conquest Ackett & Hillyard prayed Mʳˢ Brookes of Bedford & Sarah Preston of Carrington were proposed for communion Bᵉ Rush & Allen appᵈ Messᵍʳˢ to the former Bᵉ Newman & Conquest to the latter.

After this Church Meeting Our Bʳᵉ Burr Upton, & Jones and Sisterˢ Bowle fell asleep in Jesus, either the Lord sanctify these bereavings to us, and repair the breaches he has made

Feb Bᵉ Hurlock Berrill & Hillyard prayed Sister Brookes & Preston were received into full communion

Our Sister Knight Ch Harvey and

March — After this Meeting our Brother & Deacon J Rush slept in Jesus aged 79 —

April 20th Bʳᵉ Malden Jonathan Kilpin Cooper & Hillyard prayed &, Bᵉ J Kilpin & Malden were appointed to visit Bʳᵉ & Sistʳ Careless to inquire concerning some unpleasant circumstances that were reported about them and to desire them to withdraw from the Lords Table till the Church shd be satisfied

After this C. Meeting our Brother & Deacon J Kilpin slept in Jesus

June 1. C Meeting. Bʳᵉ Ball. Wᵐ Knight Allen & Hillyard prayed Mʳ Jnᵒ Wilson was proposed Bʳ Allen & Malden Messᵍʳˢ & Mʳ Bachelor Bᵉ J Kilpin & Newman Messᵍʳˢ (v v) The Messᵍʳˢ reported that Sister Careless was humble & thankful for the care of the Church Bʳᵒ Careless seemd to accuse the Church and justify himself The Church agreed to wait a little longer to see if he would return to a better temper

July June 29 Bᵉ Hillyard being detained in London to attend the funeral of his sister R Dexter who was also a member of this Church no business was transacted but the time spent in prayer and an exhortation from Bʳ J Kilpin of Leominster

After this Church Meeting Sister Allanton entered upon the future state & Sister Dexter just before it

July Bʳᵒ Bachelor & Wilson were received into communion Mʳ Rudd of Carrington & J Hart of Bedford were proposed

Augᵗ Bʳᵒ Rudd & Hart were admitted into full communion

Octᵉ Bʳᵉ J Smith Ackett Robinson & Hillyard prayed our Friend John Adams of Kempstone was proposed Bᵉ J Smith & Allen appᵈ Messᵍʳˢ

Decᵉ Bʳᵉ Malden Cooper & Hillyard prayᵈ Bʳᵒ Adams was received into communion.

Jan 1811 Bᵉ Hooke & Hillyard prayed Susan Garrod & Ann Martin were proposed for communion Bᵉ Kilpin & Allen Bᵉ Newman & Malden Messᵍʳˢ

Jan 31 Bᵉ Bachelor & Prowle & H prayed Sister Garrod & Martin were received Mʳ & Mʳˢ Paine of Bedford were

prayed Br Aldren Gillham & Kenseman Messengers and Bro Cox of Kempston Br J Smith & Douglass Messrs Bro Borrill having used some unproper language in company acknowledged his fault and discovered real penitence by his confession as the world had talked of the affair the Church thought it right to manifest their disapprobation by excluding him for one month

C Meeting March. Bro & Sister Paine & Sister Cox were rec'd into communion Mr Benjn Prowle of Carrington, Saml Gambrel of Carrington and Anne Coles of Bedford were proposed for communion Br J Smith Conquest & Nottingham Messrs to the two former Bro Malden & Gillham to the latter

C Meeting April 4 Bro B Prowle Sn Gambrel and Sister Ann Coles were rec'd into communion, William Cherry of Kempston & Anne Wildman of Cople were proposed Br J Smith & Douglass Messrs to the former Br J Pilgrim & J Prowle to the latter

C Meeting May 2 Bro Cherry and Sister Wildman were prayed rec'd into communion; Mr B Pilgrim was proposed, Br Malden & J Smith Messrs Br J Prowle & J Brashier prayed

After this C Meeting our Bro Cooke Sen of Goldington departed this life æt 77 and Br E Carslake who had been suspended

At this C Meeting our Bro Allen was suspended from communion on account of some circumstances re connected with his failure in business ——

C Meeting May 30 1811 Br Malden & Hillyard prayed Bro B Pilgrim was received into communion Thomas Barber was proposed Br Malden & Gillham Messengers

This was a General Church Meeting at which the Letter of Mr Pearce was read and the Pastor reported that [illegible] September since the last gen C Meeting in 1807 1 Member had been excluded 1 had been suspended for a time four who had been formerly suspended were restored 19 had been removed from the Church below and 39 has been added leaving an increase of 19 to the number of members in communion

C Meeting July 5 Br Bachler J Bull & Hillyard prayed Sister Hannah Barber of Bedford was admitted a member — Treasey of Stagsden was proposed Br J Smith and Douglass Messrs

Br Hillyard J Pilgrim J Smith & Malden were appd to inquire into the particulars of Bro Allens conduct that the Church may know how to deal with him.

Before this C Meeting Sister E Gibbs fell asleep

C Meeting July 25 1811 Br B Prowle Harper & Paine & H prayed Treasey of Stagsden deferred coming before the Church till after his visit a Letter was read from Br Allen on which the Church deputed Br Malden & J Smith Messrs to speak with him of his affairs which they & others had not an opportunity of doing last month.

C Meeting Aug 29: Br J Prowle Cooper & Malden with H. prayed. The report of the Messrs of the Church concerning our Brother Allen was such as to lead the Church to conclude that it was their painful duty to exclude him which was accordingly done it was painful to us may it be profitable to him

Before this C Meeting our Bro Townley of Shefford and Watford — of Wooten fell asleep —

C Meeting Oct 3: Br Borrill and Hillyard prayed Brother Treasey was united Sister York of Warden who had been long suspended was cut off Mary Knight and Elizabeth Negus of Wooten were proposed Bro Kenseman & B Prowle Messrs

C Meeting Nov Br Conquest Toms & H prayed Sister Mary Knight & Eliz Negus were received into communion

C Meeting in Dec[r] omitted — in Jan[y] 1812
Robert Sargent proposed Bro[r] Walden &
Gillham Messengers
After this C Meeting Sister Mary Stevens
and Widow Cowley slept in Jesus —

C Meeting Feb 19 1812 Br[r] Rudd
and John Smith & H. prayed. Bro[r] R
Sargent was rec[d] into communion
Hannah Gardner was proposed Br[r]
Henman & B Prowle Mess[rs]

C Meeting March Br[r] B Prowle & Hillyard
prayed H Gardener was rec[d] into
communion, Br[r] Wilson having a desire
to exhort in the Villages spoke from a
word this day before the Church and was
universally approved
After this C Meeting Sister Bassett of
Kempston slept in Jesus, and before it
Sister Sarah Newell.

C Meeting April 30 Br[r]
Douglas & Hillyard prayed Bro[r] Wilson
spoke from a text of scripture Page of
St Marys Bedford was proposed for communion
Br[r] Walden & Gillham Mess[rs] &
of Biddenham Br[r] Henman & Jn[o] Smith
Mess[rs]

C Meeting May. Sister Page & Gafford were
received into full communion Br[r] J[n] Smith
& Hillyard prayed

C Meeting June. Bro[r] Bachler & Hillyard
prayed Ann Robinson of Kempstone was
proposed Br[r] J[n] Smith & B Phelpin Mess[rs]

C Meeting July 30 1812 Br[r] J Bull Cooke &
Hillyard prayed Sister Ann Robinson of
Kempstone was rec[d] into communion

C Meeting August (Omitted to enter)
C Meeting in Sept[r] Mr & Mrs Haines
of Bromham proposed for communion
About this time Sister H. Fox. fell asleep

C Meeting Nov[r] Mr & Mrs Haines
were rec[d] into full communion

C Meeting Dec[r] Br[r] Bull & Cooke & B Prowle
prayed Friend Wilson of Tenlake proposed
Henman - B Prowle Messengers

January 1813. Brother Wilson of Tenlake
was rec[d] into full communion, Mr Eddale
preached at this Meeting —
About this time our Sisters S Walker
& Mary Knight of Wooten & Eliz Fiskop of
Kempston fell on sleep —

February Mo[th] Br[r] Haines Jn[o] Smith
& Hillyard prayed Mr Parker of Grove
Lane was proposed Br[r] Henman & Gillham
Messengers
After this C Meeting Br[r] James Palmer
fell asleep — & Sister Harding of Kempstone

March 10[th] being Fast Day, Br[r] J Phelpin
R Henman & Hillyard prayed 2 Chapters
were read & an Exhortation delivered to the
Church & Congregation, Eliz[th] Parker was
rec[d] into communion
Sergeant Nobbs of the Marines was proposed
Br[r] J. Phelpin & R. Henman Mess[rs] Eliz[th]
Saunders & Mary Chapman of Kempston
Br[r] James Smith & Wm Harvey Mess[rs] —

After this C Meeting Sister Goodman
of Elmestowe slept in Jesus.

April 8. C Meeting Br[r] Wm Harvey
& Hillyard prayed, Sergeant Nobbs
& Saunders & Mary Chapman were rec[d]
into full communion —
Mrs Sargent & Mrs Barkby of
Angel Street Bedford were proposed
Br[r] Walden & J Phelpin Messengers

May 6 C Meeting Br[r] James Smith &
Jn[o] Prowle and H prayed Sister Sargent
and Barkby were rec[d] into full communion
Mrs Douglass of Kempstone was proposed
Br[r] J[n] Smith & R Henman Mess[rs] Eliz[th]
Pulley Angel Street Bro[r] Walden & Gillham
Mess[rs] Mr Beale of Wilden, Bro[r] J Phelpin
& Hewlett Mess[rs] —

June. 3. C Meeting Br[r] Fisher & H prayed
Sisters Pulley & Douglass were received into
full communion
Mrs Fowler of Bedford was proposed
Bro[r] J Phelpin & Gillham Messengers
Esther Edwards & Charlotte Hulk the first of
Bedford the second of Wooten, both Daughters
of our Sister Hulk were proposed Br[r] James
Smith & B Prowle Messengers
Sarah Worrall of Kempston Br[r] Henman
& Douglass Mess[rs]
Mrs Yorke of Kempston Br[r] Walden & Fisher
Mess[rs]

July 1 Bro Malden & Hillyard prayed
Bro J Beale of Wilden, Sister Susannah
Yorke of Hempston Sarah Worrall &
Charlotte Hall of Weston Mary Edwards
& Mrs Fowler of Bedford were received
into full communion.
Jno Coreless was proposed Bro J Kilpin
& Malden Messrs ——
Bro Paine was suspended for excess in
drinking, We hope his penitence is sincere
and his fall will be a warning to him and
others Bro Malden J Kilpin & Gillham
were appd to visit him in the course of
the next month and to report the result
of their enquiries at the next Meeting —

After this Church Meeting Sister Gore
of Hempstone fell asleep in Jesus.

August. John Coreless was admitted
into communion / Bro Paine upon a
full & penitent confession of his fall
and his approbation of the conduct of
the Church was restored Wm Whitbread
of Weston was proposed Bro Prowle &
Jno Smith Messrs also Tabitha Brown
of Bedford Bro Gillham & Backler &
Charlotte Hackett wife of Bro Hackett
of Oakley Bro Hensman & Fluelett Mg
and Thomas & Hannal Hackett
Son and daughter of the above C.H.
Bro Malden & Harvey Messrs

After this C Meeting Sister C
Hall of the age of 18 years who joined
the Church in July fell asleep in Jesus

Sept 16 Bro Douglass & Hillyard
prayed Sister T. Brown, Sisters
C & H Hackett & Bro J Hackett
were received into communion W Whitbread
not having finished harvest deferred
appearing before the Church to next
Meeting
Sister Eliz Cowley was suspended un-
der a charge of improper conduct &
language in the field during the harvest month
out just before this C Meeting Bro Jno
Smith of St Peters fell asleep in Jesus

Oct Bro Jno Smith & Hillyard prayed
Bro Whitebread was rec into communion &
Miss Martha Duncomb of Barford proposed

Nov Bro Thos Hackett & H prayed
Miss Duncomb was rec into communion

After this C Meeting Sister C Freebro
fell asleep

Dec —— Bro Prowle Conquest & H. prayed

Feb 7 2nd Bro Nobbs, Wilson, Mr Revis &
Hillyard prayed

March Harpur
Bro Harvey Malden & Hillyard prayed
Mrs Mellows proposed for communion
Bro Hensman & Malden Messrs

April —
Bro Rd Hensman Douglas & H prayed
Sister Mellowes was received into communion
Our former Sister, Elizabeth Cowley of
Clapham was cut off from communion —

April 29. Bro Wm Knight Bro Kilpin &
Hillyard prayed. Bro Fisher was suspended
from the ordinance under a charge of intoxication
which he confessed to be true Bro Malden &
J Kilpin Messrs to him
Bro J Acheff this day exercised his gifts
in speaking from a passage before the Church
and it was unanimously agreed that he should
be heard again, and in the mean time be allowed
to speak in the Villages.

After this C Meeting Bro Robert Sergeant
who had been approved as a Preacher by the
Church and expected to go to Newport Academy
was removed into the World above —

(May & June no minutes taken /
July Brother Toms & Hillyard prayed
Bro Acheff spoke from a Text — Elizabeth
Walton was proposed for communion
Bro Malden & Hensman appd Messrs
Bro Fisher was restored appearing
truly penitent

1814

July 27. Bs Melden Bachlor & H prayed

Sister Walton (now Harvey) was rec into communion

as Br Hillyard was called to preach a funeral Sermon for Rev Wm Ball of Newport who was sent into the Ministry by this Church between fifty & sixty years ago it was resolved unanimously that the Ordinance be administered in the evening

Sept August Brs Hensman & Fuller prayed M. Berrill Daughter of our Sister Berrill of Castle Mills was proposed for communion Bs Hazard Pilgrim & ~~Hensman~~ Hensman Messengers

Sept 30th Brs Knight & Hillyard prayed Sister Berrill was rec into communion

Oct Bs Haines Wilson & H prayed Elizabeth Smith & Maria Prior were proposed for communion Bs Melden & Bs Pilgrim Messengers.

After this C Meeting our Sister Pilgrim fell asleep in Jesus

Oct 24 Bs B Proute & Mr Green & Hillyard prayed Elizabeth Smith & Maria Prior were received into communion, though the latter was prevented by sickness from being present

Bro Paine having again fallen to the sin of drunkenness with some aggravating circumstances it was voted to set him aside for a season till time should be given to him & his reformation to be evidenced Bs Hazard and James Smith appointed to speak with him

Last before this Church Meeting our Sen Brother John Cooper was called hom he had been present at the Prayer Meeting at Cople on the Lord's day evening, gave out the hymns re a chapter & talked very seriously to the people the next morning his body was found to be without life, his Soul we trust has ent into rest he had been a Member more than fifty one years.

Dec ——— Bs H absent from hom

January. Bs Melden B Pilgrim & Douglas Miss Mary Nash was proposed for commun Bs R Hensman & J Cooke Mess C Mrs Atterbury of Kempston Bs Js Smith & Douglas C Mess Mrs Ann Whiteman of Carrington Bs B Proute & Conquest C Mess

February 16 1815 Bs Jno Proute & Hillyard prayed C Mrs Atterbury J Hensman Miss Clark of Bedford Ann Whiteman of Carrington were received into full communion

Bs Cherry of Kempston was very ill for a month on account of a chan of intoxication, which we hope was by ou prise, & and not the presumptuous sin Bs Js Smith & Douglas to ma him

After this Church Meeting Sister Bass of Stagsden fell asleep

C Meeting in March omitted to be noticed, Ch Meeting in April It was intended to have restored Bs Paine bu some circumstances of a discouraging nature prevented it for the present

Ch Meeting June 5th Bs Butler & Mrs Overall & Shillester of Elstow & Sarah Whiteman of Carrington were proposed for communion

Ch Meeting in June 5th Bs Butler & Mrs Sister Overall Shillester & Whiteman were admitted Mrs Hillyard & Frances Hensman were proy

1815

for communion the Church agreeing to dispense with their attendance when the account of them was delivered Bro Kilpin & Malden Messrs to the ~~former~~ latter Bro J. Smith & Hensman to the former

Bro J. Smith & Hensman requested to visit Bro & Sister Paine who have absented themselves from the public worship among us —

About this time a dismission of Mrs Bedlow formerly our Sister Eccles was sent to the Church of Christ at Ridgewell in Essex under the pastoral care of Mr Drake Sometime before Bro Wm Smith was dismissed to the Church in Devonshire Square under the pastoral care of the Rev J Thomas. (Bro Bachler suspended having failed in business)

C Meeting June 29 Bro Malden & Hillyard prayed Sister Hillyard & T Hensman were united to the Church and baptized publickly by sprinkling & other friends were immediately after the Meeting baptized by immersion

---

C Meeting July. Mr Aston Bro Hartson Wm Harvey & Hillyard prayed

Ann Hull of Hampston was proposed Bro B Kilpin & B Prowle Messengers

---

C Meeting August Ann Hull was received into communion.

C Meeting September Rev J Morrell to begin in prayer & delivered an exhortation Bro T. concluded

The following persons were proposed for communion & Messengers appointed

Tinsley of Goldington, Messrs T. Cooke & Gilham

Mrs Grigge of Oakley Messrs Wm Acketts & R Hensman

Miss Denyer of Elvestone Bro Higgs Bro Malden & B Kilpin

of Everlake

Mrs Wilson, Bro J Kilpin & B Prowle

Mrs Jackson of Cardington Bro J Smith & J Prowle

Bro Hillyard & J Kilpin were appointed to visit Bro & Sister Paine

Mary Chapman was suspended for imprudent and vain conversation Bro Douglas & Hensman to visit her

---

C Meeting Oct Bro Malden & Hillyard prayed Sisters Ann Tinsley & Elizabeth Grigg Sarah Denyer, Lydia Wilson & Mary Jackson were received into full communion

Mr Paine was cut off from communion having withdrawn from public worship with us and refusing to submit to the censures of the Church against his drunkenness

Bro Bachler humbly confessing his imprudencies was ~~released~~ restored

After this C Meeting Sister James departed this life

C Meeting Dec 7th Bro Douglas Congregation Hensman & Hillyard prayed

Widow Dickens of Bedford was proposed for communion Bro Malden & B Kilpin Messengers

---

C Meeting Jan 7. 1816 Widow Dickens was received into full communion

---

C Meeting March 6th Bro B Prowle Nottingham & Hensman & Hillyard prayed & Widow Crosely of Elvestone was proposed for communion Bro J Kilpin & Wm Knight Messengers

A little before this Meeting Bro J Warwick ~~died~~ and Bro Wm Harvey fell asleep —

1816

C Meeting April ~~1816~~ & May. Sister Mary Bettles of Stagsden was proposed to full communion and received unanimously by the Church Sister Crosby of Ellerstowe was also rec^d in April—

After the C Meeting in May Our Sister Mary Kilpin late wife of Bro^r Jonathan Kilpin suddenly departed this life.

C Meeting May 30^th^ B^rs^ J Kilpin Gillham & Jno Smith & Fullyard prayed M^rs^ Joseph Hill was proposed for communion and B^rs^ J Kilpin & Malden appointed Messengers A Letter was also read from Sarah Robinson of Kempston expressing her desire to join this Church which gave great pleasure but as ~~as~~ the Members were not sufficiently acquainted with her it was recommended for them to converse with her and inquire concerning her with a view to her being proposed the next Church Meeting—

C Meeting July 5^th^ B^rs^ Hewlett & Fullyard prayed B^rs^ Joseph Hill was received into full communion M^rs^ W^m^ Hurst of Bedford and Sarah Robinson of Kempston were proposed B^rs^ Malden & J Kilpin Messrs to the former & B^rs^ James Smith & Berry Prowle to the latter.

C Meeting Aug 1^st^ B^rs^ Staines & Fullyard and M^rs^ H Jenks prayed W^m^ Hurst was received into full communion Sarah Robinson was prevented by a heavy affliction from attending this meeting

---

C Meeting Sept not entered

C Meeting Oct B^rs^ J Prowle T Cooke Malden & Fullyard prayed

---

C Meeting Nov: B^rs^ Berrill & M^rs^ Kilpin of Newport prayed & B^rs^ Fullyard

---

C Meeting Nov 27 B^rs^ Knight & Rae M^c^Mayle & B^rs^ Fullyard prayed Our late B^rs^ John Coopers experience was read Mary Hervey of Ellerstowe proposed B^rs^ Malden & Knight Messengers—

B^rs^ Fisher was accused of excessive drinking B^rs^ Malden & Kilpin Messrs

---

C Meeting Dec^r^ 25 B^rs^ Kilpin & Fullyard prayed Sister Mary Harvey was received into communion M^rs^ Hurst was proposed B^rs^ B. Kilpin & Hart Messrs

Between This & the former Ch. Meeting our Sister Martleat of Goldington Aged 87 our Sister Knott of Stagsden Aged 89 & our Sist Hathorn of Stagsden entered into rest

---

C Meeting January 1817. B^rs^ B Kilpin Jonathan Kilpin & Fullyard prayed Sister Hurst was received into full communion,

Susannah Thurnell was proposed B^rs^ Malden & Hewlett Messengers.

B^r^ Fisher's case was considered & it was agreed that he should remain under the suspension another month & B^rs^ Smith & Malden should converse with him & make inquiries respecting the charge brought against him

---

C Meeting February 27 1817 B^rs^ Conquest Staines & Fullyard prayed Sister Thurnall was rec^d into fellowship

Sister E Careless ~~was~~ sent a letter to the Church expressive of her regard for them & her desire to be restored from the state of suspension under which she has long remained in consequence of her removal from Bedford and the Churches want of knowledge respecting her conduct & state of mind The letter was considered satisfactory in connection with the character that was given by the family in which she has long

1817 resided she was therefore restored to communion & a letter of recommendation is to be sent to the Church at Biggleswade with which she desires occasional communion

Br Fisher's case was considered and it was agreed that he remain in his present state for another month.

C Meeting April 3d Br Hart. Hewlett Hill & Fullard prayed

Henry Brandon was proposed for communion Br Malden & B. Kilpin Messengers

Br Fisher was restored

C Meeting May 2. Br Rudd J Kilpin & Hillyard prayed

Henry Brandon was received into full communion & Mrs Morris of Elvestowe proposed

---

C Meeting June Br Prawle Conquest C Malden & Hillyard prayed C Mrs Morris of Elvestowe admitted

---

C Meeting July C Mary Stanley of Bedford proposed Br Flemsman & Malden Messengers

---

C Meeting July 31st C Br Hill & Conquest & Hillyard prayed C Mary Stanley rec'd into communion

---

From July to Novr no particular business was done at the Church Meetings except that John Negus of whom the most painful Reports are in circulation was suspended from communion till we can be more fully informed concerning him — and Mrs Millard of St Peters proposed Br Malden & Flemsman Messrs

---

Before this Meeting Sister Fowler slept in Jesus November — Br Acketts Gambrel Gillham & Hillyard prayed Elizabeth Fox & Miss Cumberland were proposed for communion Br Hewlett & Flemsman Messengers to the former Br Malden & Gillham to the latter

Sister Millard of St Peters was received into communion

Decr 11 Br Prowle & Hillyard prayed Sister Fox & Cumberland were received into full communion —

C Mary Chance & Mrs Purser of Thrift were proposed for communion Br C Malden & Acketts Messengers, Mary Squires of Bedford was also proposed Br Flemsmen & Gillham Messengers

---

Jan 7 1818. Bros Br Prowle & Hillyard prayed Sisters Chance and Purser were & Squires were received into communion

Wm Ashton & Mary Pavior of Bedford were proposed Br J Kilpin & C Malden Messrs to the former Br Flemsman & Knight to the latter

---

Feb 7 12 1818 Br Douglas & Hillyard prayed Br Wm Ashton was received into communion and Sister Pavior.

After this Meeting on Brother Harps slept in Jesus

March 19 1818 Br Jr Smith. J Kilpin & Hewlett & H prayed Sister Mary Paine of Stagsden proposed Br B Kilpin & Hewlett Messrs

April 1818 Sister Mary Paine was received into full communion

After this Meeting Sisters Eastoffe & Lydia Wilson slept in Jesus

May. 22. Brs Jonathan Kilpin Wm Knight Barrett & H prayed Mr Stapleton of Staysden was proposed for communion Brs Malden & James Smith appd Messengers

~~After this Collect~~

June Brs Stapleton was admitted into full communion

After this Meeting Sister Eastleman of Reynold fell asleep—

July 9th Brs Nottingham Rudd & Hillyard prayed The Experience of our late Bro Sister Deacon Eastleman was read

Brs Wm Whitbread & Ashton were censured for giving way to too much drinking and Brs J Kilpin & R Prowle to be Messengers to the former Brs Heneman & Malden to the latter

Aug 13 Brs Congreat Malden & H prayed — Brs Whitbread & Ashton humbly acknowledging their fault & expressing earnest desires to be preserved in future were restored to full communion

After this Meeting died our Sister Martial of Bedford Aged 79—

At Septr 11th Brs John Prowle Barrett & H prayed — Mr Isaac Clayton was proposed for communion Brs Malden & J Kilpin Messengers

After this Meeting died our Brother Cherry of Kempston

Octr Brs James Smith & H. prayed Brs Isaac Clayton was received into full communion.

Novr 6th Brs John Smith Francis & Hillyard prayed Our young friends Mary Staines, Martha Kilpin, Hannah Smith, and Frances Hillyard Daughter of the Pastor were proposed for full communion Brs James Smith & Malden Messgrs to the two former & Brs J Kilpin and R Heneman to the two latter named friends

After this Church Meeting our Sisters Mary Everton & Mrs Newell entered into rest The former was 84 or 85 years of age and had been blind for more than 80 years she was a very lively & cheerful christian

Decr 5th Brs John Prowle and Hillyard prayed — Our Sisters Mary Haines Hannah Smith Frances Hillyard and Martha Kilpin were received into full communion

Mr Leicester was proposed Brs Hill & B Kilpin appointed Messgrs also Mrs Clayton the wife of Brs Clayton (lately admitted.) Brs Hewlett & Gillham Messengers

Decr 25— Brs Leicester and Sister Clayton were received into full communion

Our Brother Negus who has removed to London and for some time past been suspended was cut off from communion having deserted his wife and living with another woman The Lord humble us under this affliction and restore the wanderer to himself

After this Church Meeting Sister Cox of Kempston departed this life

Feb 4 Brs Thos Eckett & Hillyard prayed — Brs Thos Green was received into full communion by dismission from the Church at Luton — His wife Mrs Eliz Green who was proposed last Church Meeting and to whom Brs Pilgrim & Hanscomb were Messengers and Widow Susannah Maynard who had been proposed at the same time and to whom Brs Warner Smith and Knight were Messengers were received into communion

Mrs Nash was proposed Brs James Smith & Hewlett the Messrs and Mrs Ashton Wife of Brother Ashton Brs Marden & Brs Pilgrin Messrs

March 4th Brs Jno Prowle and Hillyard prayed Sisters Nash and Ashton were received into full communion Mrs Odell of Bedford was proposed Brs Hewlett and Molden were appd Messengers

Brs Jno Prowle being about to remove at a greater distance from Bedford at his request was dismissed to the Church at Cotton-End

Adapted 5th Brs Hillyard prayed Mr Pilgrin preach Mrs Odell was received into full communion —

~~After this Meeting Brs Wm & Mrs Wilson departed this life~~

May

April 6th Brs Bull & Douglas & Hillyard prayed

Mr Caporn of Bedford was proposed for communion Brs Pilgrin & Hill appointed Messengers —

Before this Meeting our Bror Wilson of Trenlock departed this life

June 4th Brs Gadsden & Rev Mr Burkitt prayed Mr Caporn was received into full communion and Mrs Caporn his wife was proposed Brs Pilgrin & Hill Messengers

July Mrs Caporn was received into full communion

August Mrs Clarke of Thames Street was proposed for communion Brs Hensman & Pilgrin Messrs

September Mrs Clarke was received into full communion

After September no entrances were made in the Church book during the remainder of the year 1819 — and no particular ~~in~~ act to require to be recorded

But in that time three of our Sisters entered into rest viz Sister Conquest of Gardington Sister Mary Leach of Elstow & Sister Nottingham of Goldington

January 1820 Brs J Cooke of Goldington Molden & Hillyard prayed —

After this Meeting Sister E Warner entered into rest.

1820

July 24 Br Hart Bull Senr Hensman & Fillyard prayed —

After this Meeting Br Jonathon Kilpin fell asleep & Sister Sargeant both of Bedford

March 24 Br Conquest Hensman & Fillyard prayed

April 20 Br Malden Hensman & Fillyard prayed, Ann Pack was proposed to communion Br Hill & Gillham Messrs & Sarah Soons Br Hensman & Malden Messengers. / Sister Warwick of Stagsden slept in Jesus after this C. Meeting

May 25: Br Hill & Fillyard prayed Sisters Ann Pack & Sarah Soons were received into communion.

Mr John Brashier of Bedford was received by a letter of Dismission from the Church of Christ assembling at the Wigh-House London under the Pastoral care of the Rev John Clayton Senr —

Mrs Paine formerly Mary Bass was Dismissed to communion with the Church of Christ at Olney under the Pastoral care of the Rev Mr Simmons — —

After this C Meeting Br John Carelss slept in Jesus

June 22nd Br Brashier Douglas & Fillyard prayed

Our friend John York of Kempston was proposed Brer James Smith and Brother Douglas Messengers.

July 28 Br Prowle & H prayed — Br John York was received into full communion

After this C Meeting Sister M. Woodward slept in Jesus.

Aug 31st Br Berrill Leicester & H prayed Mr Johnson of Kempston was proposed for communion

After this Meeting Sister Thurnell slept in Jesus

Sep: 27. Br Conquest B. Kilpin & Fillyard prayed Brer Johnson was received into fellowship. Mr Edward Berrill of Bedford was proposed Br B Kilpin & Green Messengers —

Mary Ann Gotward being with child and unmarried was separated from communion

Oct Br Nich Pratt & Fillyard prayed Br Edward Berrill was received into communion

Novr 17th Br Malden Mr Rice of Oakham & Mr Fillyard prayed Mr Wm Malden was proposed for communion Br J Kilpin and Gillham Messengers & Mary Woolston Br Malden & Green Messengers

Decr 14 Br Brandum & H prayed Brer Wm Malden & Sister Mary Woolston were received into communion

Br Wm Whitbread was suspended from communion under a charge of drunkenness Br Brashier & Gillham appointed Messengers to inquire concerning him & to speak with him

Janry 11th 1821 Br Wm Malden Johnson Jrs Smith & H prayed

Mrs Bull of Bedford was proposed for communion Br Hensman and Malden Messengers

The Messengers to Brer Whitbread reported that they had not seen him — He being moved to a distance to get work —

After this C Meeting Sister Lucy Broadwell fell asleep

February 8 1821 Br Beale & Fullyard prayed Sister Ann Bull of Bedford was received into communion & Ann Hare of Bedford was proposed Br Green & Hewlett Messengers —

March 14 1821 Br James Smith & Fullyard prayed Sister Hare was received into full communion Widow Norris ~~was proposed~~ of Bedford was proposed Br Kinsman & Brandom Messengers Sister Sus[a] Darnell formerly Ashwell was dismissed to the Church at Princes Risborough Br Whitbread being removed to Luton confessed his being overtaken in the crime laid to his charge and was restored.

April 1821 Br[s] Prowle & Fullyard prayed Sister Norris was received into full communion and Hannah Brockett was proposed Br[s] Kinsman & Gillham Messengers.

May 10 Br Johnson prayed Sister Brockett of Bedford was received into full communion James Battles of Cardington was proposed Br Prowle and Enquist Messgrs ~~Br to~~ the Rev M[r] Simmons of Olney preached at this Meeting

June 13 Br Nich Pratt & Friend Br Battles was received into full communion —

Before this Meeting Br J Sherratt a Student at Newport Academy died suddenly at Buckingham where he went to supply for the Sabbath after it Our Sister Dickens of Bedford departed this life

July 12 Br Hill Brushield & Fullyard prayed
(~~Previous Meeting~~ Sister ~~Green~~ Bedford kept in peace

Aug 13 Br Holden & Fullyard prayed —
Sep Br Bachler Burrell & Fullyard prayed

[At this point the entries in the CHURCH BOOK cease. In the original folio a few pages at the end are taken up with casual notes, mostly of property, made in the late eighteenth century: these have not been reproduced except for the list of dead members of the Church which was begun by Bunyan and is printed overleaf.]

Of persons deceased in the congregation from November 1681

1 Upon the tenth of November 81 our aged, and honoured Bro: John
Sewster departed this life
2 Upon the twelfth of November 81 our honoured Brother Samuel Fenn
one of the elders of this congregation departed this life
3 Upon the twenty Seventh of November 81 our Sister Bunyan in
the parish of Moorhill departed this life
4 Upon the eleventh day of December our sister Mowman al Linnet
in this parish of Malden departed this life.
5 Upon the 16 day of December our Brother John Harsfield of Gamlingay
departed this life
6 Upon the 30th day of August our honoured Sister Hill departed this life
7 Upon the 21 of november our honored Sister Sanson departed this life
8 Upon the 8 of December our much beloved sister Sanson departed this life
9 Upon the 5 of march our sister Philips departed this life
10 Upon the 18 of march our Sister Beech departed this life
11 Upon the 31 of march our Sister Robt Reed departed this life
12 Upon the 14 of June our Beloved Sister Strongley departed this life.
1633 Upon ye 8 of July our Beloved Sister Woodward departed this Life.
13 Upon ye 17 of Augst our Bro: Speyer of Colingend departed this Life
14 Upon the 18 of November our aged Bro: Edw: Coventon departed this life
15 Upon ye 9 of may our Beloved Sister Fenn departed this life
16 & soon after this time our Sister Die of Milton departed this life
1684 17 Upon ye 29th of June our Sister Digby of Burnham departed this life
18 Upon ye 10 of August our Brother Brooker of Kemston departed this life
19 Upon the 9 of may our Sister Mary Wilkins alias Hynes departed this life
1685 20 Upon ye 7 of June our Sister mary Lewis of Kemston departed this life
21 Upon ye 27 of June our aged Sister Appleby of Kemston departed this life
22 Upon ye 7 of July our aged Sister Cooper of Clapham departed this life
23 Upon ye 11 of July our Beloved Sister Clayton alias Keyes departed this life
24 About ye Beginning of August our Sister Wilkins of Burnham departed this life
25 Upon ye 17 of August our Bro: William Savage of Goldington departed this life
26 Upon ye 22 of June our Sister Susanna Bennwell of Bolford departed this Life
27 Aprill our Sister Reade of Bolford departed this life
28 Upon ye 27 of may our Sister Simon of Milton departed this life
1686 29 Upon ye 21 of June our Sister Sanson of Harrold departed this life
30 About ye 6 of August our Sister Pierce of Kempston departed this life
31 About ye Latter End of November our Bro: Stotkman departed this life
32 Upon ye 25 of march our Sister mary Fizzell departed this life
33 Upon ye 21 of Aprill our Honoured Bro: Olyver Groff
34 one of ye Pastors of this Congregations departed this life
35 Upon ye 24 of July our Sister Frances Wilson departed this life
36 Upon ye 25 of December our Sister Elizabeth York departed this life
37 Upon ye 14th of February our aged & honoured Sister Williamson departed this life
38 Upon ye first of July our Honoured Sister Clarke departed this life
1688 39 Upon ye our Sister Alderman Jepson departed this life
40 Upon the 21 of march our Sister Wheeler departed this life

Aug 31. 41 Our honoured & well beloved Bro: Bunyan Elder & Pastor of this Congregation
after he had laboured 32 Years in the ministry, departed this life in the 60th year
of his